

The Nation.

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The Week.

A crisis in the Cuban situation was reached with the signing of the Constitution by the delegates on Thursday, and the circumstances under which the action took place. Señor Cisneros, one of the most prominent members of the body, refused to sign the copy of the document which will be sent to Washington, and declared that "the United States Government has no right to pass upon it." Growing more indignant and less restrained, he shook his fist at the American newspaper men, as the delegates retired, and said: "The Americans are like the monkey. When the monkey closes its paw on a thing, it never wants to let go." To the remark of a fellow-delegate that "we are all Cubans," he replied, "Yes, when the time comes to fight the Americans, we will fight them together." Such is the humorous result of "the war for humanity" which we undertook three years ago with such earnest assurances of our devotion to the cause of a free and independent Cuba: general distrust of our sincerity among the people in whose behalf we interfered, and the open suggestion of another war for independence on the part of the Cubans, this time to secure freedom from what many of them consider the tyranny of the United States.

It soon appeared in the discussion in the Senate on Monday, that the Spooner amendment to the Army Appropriation Bill giving the President power to establish civil rule in the Philippines would cover authority for the Executive to dispose absolutely of public lands in the archipelago without allowing the natives any voice in the matter. Mr. Hoar put the situation, and the philosophy which underlies it, very clearly and forcibly when he said:

"The leading bald proposal here is that the public lands and franchises of twelve millions of people shall be sold by Americans to Americans as upon the whole the best means of pacification. The best means of pacifying a man is for one foreigner to take and sell his property to another foreigner. And this is the method by which we are to teach the principles of liberty and self-government!"

Attempts are made to justify the grant of such vast powers over the Philippines to McKinley on the ground that Jefferson was invested with similar authority over the Louisiana Purchase and Jackson over Florida. Congressman Gaines of Tennessee has exposed the fallacy of this theory as to Jackson and Florida. Instead of surrendering power for an indefinite period, which Senator Morgan maintains could be re-

claimed by Congress only through a two-thirds vote of both branches, the act of 1821 granted authority only until the first session of the next Congress. Moreover, Jackson, arbitrary as he is generally considered, refused to enforce the law longer than from June to October, and upon returning home, after setting up a government as best he could, condemned the act in these emphatic terms:

"I am clothed with powers which no one under a republic ought to possess, and which I trust will never be again given to any man. Nothing will give me more happiness than to learn that Congress, in its wisdom, shall have distributed them properly, and in such a manner as is consonant to our earliest and deepest convictions."

At Manila, on Thursday evening, the newly organized Federal party gave a dinner in memory of Washington, to which the authorities, civil and military, were bidden. What must have taxed the ingenuity and sorely strained the gravity of the after-dinner speakers was to find any analogy between "the day we celebrate" and the surrounding conditions. It was a question of making Washington a great benevolent *conquistador*, instead of the great peace-loving defender of his country—of that, or of leaving Washington alone. Fortunately, there was the usual recourse of being vague and general. It was only when the speakers particularized that the situation grew difficult. When Judge Taft "likened the resistance of the American colonies to royal and patrician injustice to the resistance of the Filipinos to similar injustice," we wonder if he explained that he spoke in the remote historical tense, and not of existing conditions. Perhaps not, for Gen. MacArthur had already supplied the exegesis that, "under the American flag, injustice and oppression are impossible." Gen. MacArthur also dwelt naturally on the fact that Washington went in even more for "stable institutions" than for "independent republicanism." The native chairman evidently knew where "stable institutions" were coming from, for at the end of his speech, showing a creditable familiarity with a peculiarly American rite, he declared that Washington was "first in the hearts of the Filipinos." After dinner, and especially at a love feast, no man is under oath, but if the command had come, "All whose tongues are in their cheeks will please rise," would not that entire assemblage have been found ready for the toast—the President?

The secret history of the negotiation of the Paris treaty is gradually leaking out. The latest and largest contribution is found in various documents

which the President has recently sent to the Senate in response to its request for information, though he still keeps back certain papers on the plea that it would be "incompatible with the public interest" to give them out now. Going back to the question of the relations between the representatives of the United States and Aguinaldo during the period following Dewey's victory at Manila, there is an important dispatch from Judge Day while the treaty was under discussion at Paris, in which he says: "Gen. Anderson, in correspondence with Aguinaldo in June and July, seemed to treat him and his forces as allies and native authorities, but subsequently changed his tone." Judge Day was at first strongly opposed to the seizure of the whole archipelago, and sent this dispatch to the President on October 25, 1898:

"I am unable to agree that we should peremptorily demand the entire Philippine island group. In the spirit of our instructions, and bearing in mind the often declared *disinterestedness of purpose and freedom from designs of conquest with which the war was undertaken, we should be consistent in our demands in making peace.*"

Judge Day added the pregnant remark that "only experience can determine the success of colonial expansion upon which the United States is now entering." Senator Gray of Delaware was of the same mind, and sent this earnest protest to Washington:

"The undersigned cannot agree that it is wise to take Philippine Islands in whole or in part. To do so would be to reverse accepted continental policy of the country declared and acted upon throughout our history. Propinquity governs the case of Cuba and Porto Rico. Policy proposed introduces us into European politics and entangling alliances. . . . It will make necessary a navy equal to the largest of Powers, greatly increased military establishment, immense sums for fortifications and harbors; multiply occasions for dangerous complications with foreign nations, and increase burdens of taxation."

It was alleged at the time, and has been believed ever since, that when President McKinley sent the Commissioners to Paris, he had not developed the idea that Duty required us to seize all the Philippine Islands in the interest of humanity. There also seemed good reason to believe that it was not until after he made his trip to the Omaha Exposition in the autumn of 1898, and decided that the people at railroad stations applauded his speeches the more loudly the more strongly he declared for Expansion, that he made up his mind that Destiny required us to take all. The truth of this theory is established by the papers just given out. In his original instructions, Mr. McKinley went no further than to say that "the United States cannot accept less than the cession, in full right and sovereignty of the island of Luzon," and

that this country must also have the right of entry for vessels and merchandise belonging to citizens of the United States into such Philippine ports as should not be ceded, upon the same terms that might be granted to Spaniards. It was not until the 26th of October, after the trip to Omaha, that the President sent orders to take the entire archipelago. Even after that, Judge Day interposed a further protest, while Whitelaw Reid advised against taking the Suius. Senator Davis was for taking everything without paying a cent for it, and Senator Frye wanted to include the Caroline Islands, giving Spain \$10,000,000 for both groups. This was on the 11th of November, and the President's reply, which finally settled the question, was as follows:

"You are instructed to insist upon the cession of the whole of the Philippines, and, if necessary, pay to Spain \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000; and if you can get the cession of a naval and telegraph station in the Carolines, and the several concessions and privileges and guarantees, so far as applicable, enumerated in the views of Commissioners Frye and Reid, you can offer more."

It is fortunate that the House has concurred with the Senate in striking out of the Naval Appropriation Bill the proposition for two cruisers and two battle-ships. The ostensible reason for this was the overcrowded condition of the shipyards of the chief instigators and beneficiaries of the large-navy policy, the ship-builders. The real reason may have been alarm at the growing extravagance of Congress, but, whatever the cause, the action is to be heartily applauded. Thus ends, for this session at least, the attempt of the Naval Policy Board to force us into a competition in ship-building with the German Emperor, and every delay is a gain for those who believe that the limit of a proper defensive fleet has already been passed. We have before us the letter of a prominent naval officer, conspicuous in the war with Spain, protesting against any further increase as needless and extravagant. This is a most encouraging sign, and confirms us in the belief that the policy of a huge American navy is indefensible professionally as it is economically and morally.

We have frequently pointed out that a fortified Isthmian canal is indefensible from the strictly military point of view, as well as from that of international peace and good will. Last week Col. Peter C. Hains of the United States Engineer Corps, in which he has served forty years since his graduation from West Point, showed in detail, in a paper read before the American Academy in Philadelphia, the correctness of this contention, and came to the natural conclusion that the nation which controls the adjacent seas will control the canal, no matter how large the canal garrison may be. He examined one by

one all the possible enemies of the United States, those of inferior naval strength, those of equal strength, and those of superior fleets, and showed that in each case where the canal might be seriously menaced, as by France and England, the neutrality of the canal would be of the greatest aid to this country in the event of war. This calm consideration of the question by a military man of high standing, himself a member of several Canal Commissions, should make any further ravings for an "all-American fortified" waterway impossible. Quite incidentally to the theme of the discussion, and perhaps unconsciously, Col. Hains also showed that the Philippines are a source of military weakness to the United States, being within easy striking distance of Russia, China, and Japan, and also being the natural naval objective for Italy, in Col. Hains's opinion.

A resolution was introduced in the Wisconsin Assembly urging the State's Representatives in Congress to vote against the Ship-Subsidy Bill, and there was an interesting discussion, of which this was the most striking passage:

"Mr. Hall now took the floor and made a telling speech against the bill and for the resolution. At this point Mr. Dodge interrupted to inquire if it was not true that the national platform of the Republican party provided for the passage of a ship-subsidy law. Mr. Hall said that it did, but the bill was a bad measure, nevertheless, and he was glad to see that ten Republican Senators in Congress had at last broken away from the element that favored the bill, and that Senator Spooner was one of the number. Mr. Hall said that the terms of the bill were unjust. Under its provisions it would be possible for a company practically without capital, but with good backing, to borrow money, build ships, and in ten years get enough revenue out of the Government to pay for the vessels and have a profit besides. The principle was wrong, said Mr. Hall, and, if it were applied to all branches of trade, it would result in revolution and socialism."

The resolution was finally passed by the overwhelming vote of 78 ayes to only 15 noes, in a body which contains 83 Republicans and 17 Democrats. There is a warning in such action from such a source which Hanna and Frye will do well to heed.

The steel trade combination, regarding which Wall-Street has been wondering and guessing for a month past, has at last been arranged. Representatives of the syndicate and of the outside steel companies came to terms on Sunday night, and the charter of the new company was at once filed at Trenton. There seems to be no doubt that the aggregate capital of the new concern will actually exceed a thousand million dollars, and that its issue will involve creation of a much larger amount of new securities than the existing capital of the companies about to be united. How much of this new capitalization will be "water"—that is to say, securities issued directly or indirectly as a bonus to shareholders to induce

them to come in—depends very largely on the plans of the company's organizers regarding the minority interests in the properties acquired. The advantages expected from this immense combination—the largest company, as to both nominal capitalization and actual property controlled, which has ever been organized—is that towards which all the recent industrial combinations in this country have been directed, viz., economy in production, in transportation, and in acquisition of raw materials. We do not suppose that the organizers have ever entertained the idea of advancing prices arbitrarily, and holding them at an artificial level through the absence of competition. Such a policy would not only invite the most formidable attacks on the enterprise in the courts and legislatures, but would seriously impair and unsettle the very industries on which the company must rely for its own prosperity. It is far more likely that the new concern will, sooner or later, reduce the price of steel products below the previous general average. But, in view of the power for arbitrary work with prices which undoubtedly exists under the new conditions, we have no doubt that the charter filed at Trenton sounds the knell of the steel and iron tariff.

Massachusetts has made a thorough trial of arbitration by State authority in labor disputes, and the Board which has the matter in charge is constrained to confess that it is a good deal of a failure. Nearly two-thirds of the cases which it has investigated during the past year were cases which it took up of its own accord, 26 per cent. being on the petition of one side and only 11 per cent. on the joint petition of both. The Board frankly admits that "the prevailing opinion concerning arbitration is, that it is an excellent thing in all quarrels but one's own." Some Massachusetts newspapers draw the moral that, as voluntary arbitration does not succeed, the compulsory sort should now be tried. But nobody yet meets the fundamental difficulty of adopting or enforcing compulsory arbitration so long as the labor organizations maintain their present attitude of implacable opposition to it.

Tammany has shown its hand promptly. The telegraph had hardly announced Gov. Odell's signature of the Police Commission Bill before Mayor Van Wyck had appointed Michael C. Murphy as the single head of the Department, and the new Commissioner had named Devery as his First Deputy. "Mike" Murphy, as the Mayor himself called him, in speaking of his action, is a thorough-going organization man, and he will take orders from Croker as obediently as anybody else. As Pres-

ident of the Health Board; he lent himself to the raid on the elevated railroads two years ago, and repeatedly gave out statements about "microbes" which made him a laughing-stock. His appointment of Devery as First Deputy Commissioner shows exactly what may be expected from him in his new place—the unquestioning execution of whatever policy the organization concludes to enforce. The Republican managers have been driven to the conclusion that there is nothing which they can do offhand to counter the first move of Tammany in the struggle over the control of the police under the new law. They were angry enough at first to talk about such crazy schemes of instant reprisal as the summary removal of the new Police Commissioner, or of the Mayor who had appointed him, or the passage of a State Constabulary law. But a little reflection showed that it would be the height of folly to do any one of these things. To remove Commissioner Murphy for making Devery the virtual head of the police force would not reach Devery; to remove Mayor Van Wyck for appointing Murphy would be too arbitrary a performance for Odell to contemplate once he had stopped long enough for reflection; to "jam through" a State Constabulary bill for the purpose of dealing with the police situation in New York city almost before the Governor's signature was dry upon the Police Commission Law enacted expressly to cover that situation, would be such a confession of stupidity in the past as would throw a cloud over any action in the future.

The report of the Tenement-House Commission is exactly what was to have been expected from so excellent a body. It is a document full of meat and of wise recommendations, coupled with definite and simple suggestions as to the reforms needed from Albany. The idea of creating another city department to be headed by a \$7,500 Commissioner, and composed of over 200 officials and inspectors, was evidently repugnant to the Commission at first, for they went out of their way to answer any possible objections in their report. But a consideration of the enormous importance of the questions involved—of the health, well-being, and morality of the city's tenement population of more than 1,585,000 human souls—led the Commission to believe that they could be safely intrusted only to a separate department, and an official upon whom should rest all responsibility for tenement-house conditions. We are of the opinion that the extra expense to the city—at the risk, too, of placing such additional patronage at the disposal of Tammany Hall—will be repaid a thousand times even if the Commission's recommendations can be only partially enforced and carried

out. Not one of the other conservative suggestions of the Commission will probably ever be questioned. No one will venture to doubt the wisdom of such measures as this body of experts, actuated only by the highest motives, recommends for the prevention of immorality and overcrowding, and as requisite for proper buildings. Gov. Odell is correct in saying that the enactment and proper enforcement of the laws proposed will do more to eradicate vice and benefit the morals of overcrowded communities than any other police law which could be framed. The Legislature should pass the necessary bills as rapidly as they did the defective Single-Headed Police Bill. The Republican party will profit as much by the one as it has lost by the other.

Count Waldersee's threat of a great punitive expedition has had the intended effect of hastening the Chinese court's response to the clause demanding the execution of the ringleaders in the rebellion. The court has requested the commutation of certain sentences from decapitation to strangulation, and reserves the notorious Prince Tuan for imprisonment for life. The envoys of the Powers have, we are glad to say, accepted the compromise, feeling that heads enough will still fall to make the executions exemplary. It should not be forgotten, however, that every hour of foreign occupation of Peking increases the difficulties of the situation. Minister Conger already estimates that the total demands upon China will reach \$400,000,000, although the most competent opinion holds that China cannot pay interest on more than \$300,000,000. This great indebtedness increases with every delay. If it were an individual instead of an international transaction, no one would doubt that some of the parties were looking for Chinese territory at "sheriff's sale."

It appears that the Rev. Dr. Ament, whose reported exploit of collecting damages on a basis of thirteen for one so excited the admiration of Mark Twain and other advocates of the strenuous life, owes his renown in part to a cable error. He had, in fact, collected a third more than his own estimate of the damage inflicted upon missions and native converts—a very reasonable and most businesslike precaution against shrinkage, when the "voluntary" contributions were made in so fluctuating a value as loot. Meanwhile Li Hung Chang is persistently cheerful, intimating, indeed, that when the indemnity is brought down to actual figures, he may have something to say on the propriety of offsetting indemnity with loot. But this, we fear, was frivolously spoken, and in the spirit which prompted the great Premier to read our eighth com-

mandment, "Thou shalt not steal, but thou mayest loot."

Continued reports of agrarian distress in southern Italy show plainly that the new Italian Cabinet has inherited all the difficulties of the old in aggravated form. The Minister of the Interior, Signor Giolitti, had promised the Socialists numerous reforms in the way of tax reduction and beneficiary legislation. He has already had the chance to put some of his theories in practice. Public kitchens are distributing food in three of the Apulian communes. Scores of famished workmen present themselves to the great landowners and agree to divide the wages of half-a-dozen men. Rioting has already broken out. The resources of the nation seem to be inadequate to meet the great need, and unless the immediate distress is met by private benevolence, it is hard to see how the Zanardelli Ministry can long stand. Talk of tax-reduction there has been from all parties, but no one has had the courage or the ability to show how the Government expenditures can be largely reduced.

The English War Office has issued, with refreshing frankness, an elaborate official table of the casualties sustained by its "Field Force in South Africa" from the beginning of the war up to and including the month of January, 1901. From this it appears that the total permanent reduction of the military forces has been by 15,929 officers and men, through 13,258 deaths, 1,734 discharges for disability, and 937 missing and in captivity. In addition, 14,914 men and 1,242 officers have been wounded in battle, and the losses for January, 1901, alone were 1,030 killed, wounded, and captured. Finally, it appears that 1,703 officers and no fewer than 39,095 men have been invalided home because of wounds and disease, 33,867 being credited to the sickness account. Such is the price—paid on account—of adding two more colonies to his Majesty's over-sea possessions! As we are learning our lessons in being a world-power from the other side, it is to be hoped that our War Department will follow England's example, and let the people know exactly what the price in human beings is which we are paying for our "tropic-sea gems." Surgeon-General Sternberg denies Senator Teller's statements that Gen. MacArthur has 10,000 more sick than he can handle, but gives no information as to the real number. It appears, however, from a statement of the Quartermaster-General that no fewer than 2,170 sick men were shipped from Manila on five transports between December 15 and February 17, in addition to the thousands who have already arrived at San Francisco. No wonder the War Department keeps mum.

BREAKING FAITH WITH CUBA.

The Army Bill is just the place for an amendment embodying the demands of the United States upon Cuba, as they are an assertion of stark force. They are, in reality, an act of war upon Cuban sovereignty; and, in the case of a nation not so pitifully weak, would be followed instantly by the mobilizing of troops. The amendment is, therefore, fittingly attached to the appropriation bill which enables the President to register the decrees of Congress by shot and shell. If might is to triumph over right, we cannot too carefully associate the provision for force with the announcement of our purpose to break our word. Thus it is altogether proper that our ultimatum to Cuba should be launched, as was our ultimatum to Spain, purely as a military measure, reposing wholly upon the law of the stronger.

That the amendment proposed by the Senate Committee on Cuba is in flat violation and repudiation of our national solemn promise to Cuba, we shall not insult the intelligence of our readers by assuming it to be necessary to argue. The Committee itself leaves out, for very shame, in its reference to the joint resolution of April 20, 1898, the words which would estop it, if it were composed of men of sensitive honor, from making such proposals as it now does. It authorizes the President to "leave the government and control of the island to its people" (using the phraseology of the Teller resolutions), but on conditions in sheer defiance of our pledge not to "exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction, or control over said island." "Control" could scarcely go further than what is now proposed. Cuba's treaty-making power is lopped off. Her power over her own finances is taken from her. Part of her territory is stripped from her, and she is to be compelled to grant us such naval and coaling stations as we may desire. Deceived and wronged Cuba might well exclaim:

"Nay, take my life and all; pardon not that:
You take my house when you do take the prop
That doth sustain my house; you take my life
When you do take the means whereby I live."

Yet the Committee, with fine incoherence or else hypocrisy outright, professes, in its proposed mutilations of Cuban sovereignty, to be protecting Cuban independence; to be guarding only against anything which may "impair or tend to impair the independence of Cuba." The Cuban Government is to make no treaty with "any foreign Power or Powers" impairing Cuban independence. That is section one. Then come six sections enumerating our successive impairments of Cuban independence, followed by an eighth requiring Cuba to embody them all in a "permanent treaty" with the United States. The question arises, Is the United States a

"foreign Power" as respects Cuba? The Supreme Court of the United States has just decided that it is. So what we get is a stern demand that Cuba shall, and at the same time shall not, make a treaty with a foreign Power impairing her independence.

It looks as if the Committee had tried to save its morals at the expense of its intellect; but all that it has done is seriously to "impair" both. It would have been much better to be frankly brutal; to say to Cuba that we had made her a sacred promise, but that we did not mean to keep it, that she might as well understand this first as last, and submit or be crushed. That would have been infamous, but it would have been intelligible. The course preferred is infamy heightened by obscure but false pretences, by more promises deliberately intended to be broken, by a playing fast and loose with words unworthy, we will not say of an honest nation, but of a nation that feels bound from the mere fact of being powerful to be plain-spoken and above-board. All these Committee juggles about "Independence" are contemptible. Both word and thing are perfectly well understood in international law. Independence in a nation is like personal liberty in an individual—the right, under the obligation of general laws of morality, to move and think and speak and act freely. What the Senate and, of course, the "highly gratified" President propose is to shear away Cuba's right arm, to fasten chains upon her and lock her in a dungeon, all with the most polite assurances that we are doing this in order to make her perfectly free and independent. If Juvenal had lived to see the mockery, he would have thought it still more difficult than he did *not* to write satires.

Now that the mask is off our long hypocrisy in regard to Cuba, we see no reason why events should not move rapidly. After having once brought ourselves to say publicly to the Cubans, "Well, you see now that we lied to you, and that we always meant to take your island," there ought not to be great delay in proceeding to the work of spoliation. The Spanish Commissioners at Paris strongly urged us to take over Cuba, but we strenuously and virtuously declined. The reason is now clear. We did not want to pay anything for the island, and if we had taken it then, we should have had to allow a large sum for it as an offset to a Spanish indemnity. Moreover, we wanted to get hold of the Cuban army and disarm and disband it, as we have now done. That would obviously save us trouble. It was the diplomacy of a card-sharper, but it has been successful, and why should we hesitate to reap its fruits?

To us the whole thing seems a policy of sheer dishonor. And we hasten to say that, if there is bloodshed in Cuba,

the guilt of it will stain the hands of the men who have consented to sign away our fair fame as a truth-loving and honorable people. Let them beware how they hereafter hold others responsible for the disgrace which they alone will have brought upon their country. It is their work, their glory which is and will be their shame. They are writing a page of American history over which their children will blush and hang their heads, just as we do now over the records of our armed aggression upon Mexico. The plan may succeed, but it can never be held in honor until nations begin to erect monuments to extortioners, and until the chaplains of Congress open the session with the Thieves' Prayer of Montserrat.

FALLING OVER THE TARIFF CRUTCH.

"We have quit discussing the tariff," said President McKinley, in an address to the Commercial Club of Boston almost exactly two years ago, "and have turned our attention to getting trade wherever it can be found." It appears, however, that we are not quite through talking tariff. We may be willing to cut it as we pass it in the street, but it insists upon greeting old friends effusively. As we are now disagreeably reminded by our tariff war with Russia, and our threatened tariff war with Germany, it is precisely our own tariff laws that get in our way at the very moment we are going after "trade wherever it can be found." The tariff has been a crutch to American manufacturers all these years. They have hobbled along with it contentedly in their beloved "home market," but now that they feel strong enough to enter the world's all-comers' race, they cannot throw the pesky thing away. It trips them up, barks their shins, and leads to all this indignant profanity which is now being visited upon Secretary Gage's head.

But the simple fact is that it is our fiscal laws which are at fault. They were not made for the world's trade. Exclusion, isolation, retaliation, are written all over them. They were designed for the express purpose of setting our hand against all the world, and all the world against us. Cunningly devised clubs to beat the heads of foreigners are stuck here and there in our tariff legislation, and it is one of these which Mr. Gage has been compelled to draw out to belabor Russia. If not Russia, his apologists explain, it would have had to be Germany. As it looks now, it will be Germany in addition, with Belgium thrown in to make the scrimmage more interesting. In other words, just as our manufacturers were boasting that they had the world's trade at their mercy, along come our clumsy and antiquated tariff

laws, whose sole intent was to have nothing to do with "abroad," and threaten them with serious crippling in their plans of universal commercial conquest. The Chicago steel men swear at the loss of their Russian market, just as the Chicago provision men curse at tariff interference with their French and German market; but what is it, after all, but their own tariff chickens coming home to roost? After elaborately drawing laws for forty years for the purpose of making foreign commerce impossible, we find that the thing actually works as it was intended, and sit down lamentably to tear our hair in surprise and rage.

A giant attempting to wear boy's clothes could not cut a more ridiculous figure than does the United States garbed in a ragged and outgrown protection. It is a very Bourbonism of tariff ignorance and selfishness which now blocks our way. No one knows this better than President McKinley. He has not "humbly held his ear to the ground," as Sumner said, without hearing that it is high time to kick down the ladder by which he climbed into the Presidency. He is ready for reciprocity, or free trade in any guise, provided it is made sweet by some other name. But he finds a brute protectionism squatting in his path, and saying, *j'y suis, j'y reste*. He is in a case very like Louis-Philippe's when asked to pardon Barbès. "He has my pardon," said that very limited monarch; "now I will see if I can get him that of my Ministers." President McKinley has given his consent to a piercing of the tariff barrier all along the line by reciprocity treaties and trade agreements and what not; but, alack, the Senate has thrown all that into the waste-basket. And the Senate, in this, represents protection, fed fat by Government favor, and grown insolent in its sullen selfishness. These protected interests, entrenched in our laws, are filled with a fine disdain when told about the necessities of our expanding foreign commerce. "What have you been telling us," they say to Mr. McKinley, "all these years? Was it not that the foreign market, to quote your own words, was the 'poorest' of all and wholly 'delusory'? Did you not advise us and help us to pass laws taxing our fellow-citizens so as to make ourselves rich? Well, we have got the laws we want, and it is your business to enforce them, not to try to get around them by reciprocity treaties." Strange that the cold selfishness which the President did more than any other to make triumphant, now refuses to become considerate and generous at his request!

We have no wish to gloat over mortified and angry protectionists. We shall not even remind them that free-traders were always predicting that they would fall into the very pit where they are now floundering. As the man said whom Charles Keene overheard in a tavern (a "pot-house Ruskin," he wickedly called

the fellow), "I ain't a arguin' with yer, I'm a tellin' of yer." What we tell the dazed protectionists is that this country has now got into the situation in which England was when, according to them, free trade was her wisest policy. "Oh, if we were like England," they used to say scornfully, "able to beat the world in manufacturing; and needing to draw free raw materials from all nations, then we would listen to you." But it needs no arguing that such is now our manufacturing supremacy. We boast of it; foreigners reluctantly admit it. And notice, too, that we have waked up the most wrong of all passengers in the person of Russia. She is about where we were twenty years ago—on the eve, that is, of an immense industrial development. M. de Witte jumps at the chance to "mobilize Russian industrial forces," as he puts it. We have, in short, affronted a proud, expanding nation, perfectly willing to try tariff conclusions with us. It was a piece of stupidity as huge as it would have been in Great Britain to vex our exporters when the McKinley tariff was pending.

Yet, as we say, the blame must rest ultimately upon our protective legislation. That is the petard with which its own framers are now hoist. Our tariff was planned for international jealousy and the *lex talionis*, and it is working beautifully as designed. We made our fiscal legislation a storehouse of projectiles, and now that they are bursting about our own heads, we have no right to complain. We are swaggering about as a world-power, with laws fitted only to some pent-up Utica. We send our agents abroad to get contracts, and then issue orders at Washington to render their execution impossible. We could not, as we now see, more cleverly have followed Franklin's "Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small One."

REFORM FOR THE BALLOT.

When the so-called Australian ballot was introduced into the United States a decade ago, it was confidently assumed in many quarters that a definite, workable plan had been found which could not be improved upon. Unfortunately for this theory, the Australian ballot, instead of being adopted, was adapted, and to its detriment. In this State it was imposed upon the people by a complicated and obscure law which, by the year 1896, contained no fewer than one hundred and sixty-seven sections. The Court of Appeals declared in 1898 that, as a result of this, a citizen could not then vote so as to get his ballot counted, particularly if he desired to vote for candidates of a minor party, without familiarizing himself with these one hundred and sixty-seven sections of the statute law, "some of which we have found quite difficult ourselves to understand."

If this were the only drawback to the existing ballot law, it might be patiently borne, in the hope that the Legislature would in time come to the rescue and simplify the present ponderous statute. But in the same opinion the Court of Appeals laid great emphasis upon the fact that, "under the present system, the result of elections is not to be always determined by the will of the majority," and that the dangers to free government from it, earnestly dwelt upon by the court below, are so grave as to "demand the attention of the Legislature." These dangers primarily arise from the large number of ballots rejected as void in each district. One court believed that the void ballots in the Mayoralty election of 1897 averaged five to each election district, and pointed out that if this were a correct estimate, some 10,000 votes would be lost in a State election, "a number over five times as great as the plurality of the successful candidates for electors in the Presidential election of 1884." "If an election," the Appellate Division said, "were close, and the action of the district canvassers throughout a large territory were to be brought in review before the courts, we are entirely clear that the judicial machinery for their determination would break down by the weight and number of the issues to be decided." The court also stated that the evil and disorder resulting from such a state of things at the close of a Presidential election could scarcely be exaggerated.

One particular evil of a party-column ballot which the court did not touch upon, is the frequent loss of votes to candidates for certain offices. Thus, in 1897, the candidates for Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in New York city alone received 90,000 fewer votes than were cast for the Mayoralty candidates. With the existing ballot, too, the judicial duty of passing upon the validity of ballots is forced upon the election officials, although these are only ministerial officers and not judges in the eyes of the law. Their guesses at the legality or illegality of votes are in turn likely to be passed upon by the courts. The notoriously eccentric ballot markings show how difficult it often is to arrive at a decision, and how the courts themselves may differ as to what constitutes a valid voting mark under the law.

To remedy these plainly serious defects of the existing law, some public-spirited citizens have devised a new ballot. They have sought not to render straight-ticket voting more difficult and independent voting more easy, but primarily to simplify the present ballot and to save the thousands of votes now lost at every election. The names of candidates are placed in alphabetical order under the office for which they are standing, according to the Massachusetts system, and each name is preceded by

the emblem of the party or parties whose standard-bearer the candidate is. To indicate his choice, the simplest process conceivable is demanded of the voter; with a stamp provided in the booth he has merely to obliterate a white circle in a black square in front of a candidate's name. If the voter desires to record his choice of an independent candidate not on the ballot, he has but to write the name in the blank space left for that purpose.

"Any other mark will make this ballot void," the directions read. But not the whole of the ballot, as is the case under the present law, for the simple device of printing each set of candidates upon a detachable coupon prevents this. The face of the ballot is never seen as a whole, for the proposed law will provide that, when removed from the ballot-box, it is to be placed face down on the table and the coupons for each office detached and canvassed seriatim. In case, therefore, the voter has spoiled one coupon for any office, the others are not affected, there being no mark or indication to connect the void coupon with any others. This form of ballot offers obvious advantages over the present one in facilitating the process of counting and recording the vote. Every official would rather handle a small ballot with one unmistakable mark upon it than be forced to inspect a bulky paper and decide upon the legal effect of various marks which may occur in some hundred or more spaces.

Some of the other distinct advantages of the proposed ballot are the following: The impossibility of marking a ballot for identification; the simplicity of the directions to voters, comprised here in six lines, instead of the present complicated rules, which cannot be put on the ballot; the voting of illiterates made easier; all voters put upon an equality, and the canvassing simplified by a specially devised and remarkably simple tally-sheet. This makes every step in the counting of a district's vote so simple that an absolutely correct contemporaneous record of every vote appears upon it. As the courts have declared the tally-sheet the best evidence of the actual vote when it becomes necessary to go behind the returns, the importance of this is plain. The existing tally-sheet is so complicated as to lead the election officers into constant violations of the law in regard to it.

The bills embodying these necessary changes have been introduced in the Senate by Senator Elsberg and in the Assembly by Mr. Cooley. To further them, there is in process of formation a joint committee of a number of clubs and reform organizations throughout the State, including the City and Reform Clubs, of which Mr. John G. Agar is acting Chairman, and Mr. M. D. Rothschild of No. 32 Broadway is Treasurer. The committee is to be a permanent one,

and is to urge the passing of the bills until its object is accomplished. It should have the aid of every voter, irrespective of party, who wishes to see the ballot law what it should be, and who desires to prevent the grave dangers to the State of which our highest courts have so earnestly pointed out the menace. The present election law makes the recording of the majority's voice uncertain and at times impossible. The proposed ballot makes its recording certain and infallible.

THE ALDERMEN AND THE CHARTER.

No legislatures whose achievements are recorded in history have such an evil reputation as the Boards of Aldermen or Common Councils of our American cities. They seldom attract the attention of the public except when they are discovered in some unusually flagrant iniquity, and their relation to the body politic has been compared to that between the human organism and the *appendix vermiformis*, whose only known use is to be the seat of disease. In typical performance the legislators of New York city have never been deficient, but of recent years their powers have been greatly curtailed, and the "aldermanic business" is not what it was when \$40,000 was paid for a vote in favor of a single measure. When the Greater New York was created, the framers of the charter attempted to constitute a legislature of dignity proportionate to the size of the new city; but they are not thought to have succeeded. Some reasons for their failure are given by Mr. P. Tecumseh Sherman, who was for two years an Alderman, in a well-written and sensible little book entitled 'Inside the Machine.'

Mr. Sherman's experience with the charter began promptly, for as soon as he was elected, he found that it required him to take an oath of office and file it within five days with an official who did not exist, and who could not exist until the new government should be inaugurated, some two months later. However, he filed his oath with some existing functionary, and no questions were asked; and perhaps none would have been had he not filed it at all. After being duly, or unduly, inducted into office, he found that his activities as a legislator were more circumscribed than would have been supposed from a perusal of the charter. Familiarity with parliamentary law proved to be a needless qualification, and regard for the rules of grammar rather tended to diminish the influence of those who displayed it. Mr. Sherman once ventured to move that resolutions expressing sympathy, admiration, congratulations, etc., relating to persons and events outside the sphere of city government, be sent to a special committee for revision as

to grammar and historical statements; but the proposal was resented as an insult. Its wisdom was proved in an unexpected way; for, had it prevailed, an innocent Irish Alderman would have escaped political ruin. He was betrayed into fathering a resolution providing that the City Hall and other public buildings should be decorated on the Queen's birthday, which was, in fact, promptly laid on the table, but which the mischievous reporters gave out as adopted. The Alderman's blunder was worse than a crime, and his political career came to an untimely end.

It may be thought that incidents like this are not germane to an account of the legislature of our great city; but in fact they are of the essence of its activity. So careful was the charter to guard against letting the Aldermen have too much power that it left them no serious occupation. There was, it is true, some pretence of empowering them to frame general ordinances of the nature of laws; but any attempt to exercise this power led to conflict with the departments, which soon showed that they had the whip-hand. One important ordinance—the Building Code—was enacted; but that came before the Aldermen with orders from headquarters that it must be passed. As to the most important subjects of bond issues, contracts, and public improvements, the ordinances were drawn by the departments and sent down by them to the Aldermen for confirmation. The charter said that the Aldermen might disapprove these ordinances; but it was soon found that that instrument provided a remedy for any such act of independence.

The remedy in the case of failure to approve an issue of bonds ordained by the higher powers was applied by the Corporation Counsel. The charter was not so careless of the welfare of the city legislature as to leave it without a guardian, and, to make sure that a proper person should be chosen, the selection was given to the Mayor. And that this guardianship might be carried on without ill-advised interference on the part of the wards, they were not permitted either to instruct their official counsel or to employ any other. For the members of the Assembly, as Mr. Sherman puts it, "alone, of all citizens, are exposed to the danger of having an attorney, in whose selection they have had no voice, in whose judgment and integrity they have no confidence, and over whose actions they have no control, vested with full and exclusive powers to represent them in court and to bind them in every way, while they are shut off from all other means of presenting to the court the facts and arguments upon which they base their rights and justify their actions." On one occasion the Aldermen found themselves required by a mandamus granted

with the consent of their counsel, to pass immediately an ordinance which had never been before them, and which they had not the power to originate. On this occasion the Corporation Counsel refused to present the arguments of his clients, the Councilmen, to the court, objected to the appearance of other counsel in their behalf, urged their punishment, and consented to an order punishing them for contempt of court. Thereafter the Municipal Assembly prudently abstained from the perilous business of legislating.

It by no means follows that the office of Alderman is a sinecure. On the contrary, it is extremely laborious. Every Alderman must consider, in harmony with the three Councilmen of his ward, the problems of street parades, the location of peanut-stands, the propriety of signs, awnings, and all manner of encroachments upon property. He must listen to applicants for such favors, morning, noon, and night; to appeals in divers tongues, accompanied with bribes, threats, tears, and hysterics. To him come those seeking bail, those about to be evicted, those demanding patronage. The distribution of free tickets sent to Aldermen in return for the permits granted for circuses, games, balls, and other entertainments, is a most invidious duty. On the whole, the lot of the Alderman, as described by Mr. Sherman, is so far from being a happy one that it is probable that the office might be abolished without resistance on the part of those who hold it, and certainly without protest on the part of the community.

AN OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF MODERN ILLUSTRATION.

LONDON, January 18, 1901.

Since the Exhibition of Modern Illustration just opened at South Kensington Museum was announced some months ago, my expectations have been great. The Government, in an enterprise of this kind, is not influenced, like the dealer, by the question of profits, nor, like the private society, by the prejudices and preferences of individuals. It is free to select the best and reject the commonplace, without consideration for public taste. Besides, the Exhibition of Lithographs at South Kensington in 1898-99 was, for all its faults of overcrowding and hanging, satisfactory as an historical record, and seemed a proof of the capacity of officials to organize a new collection on a somewhat similar plan. In the case of the lithographs, the year of the invention of the art provided the necessary time limit. In the case of modern illustration, a line is not so definitely drawn, but every intelligent reason points to 1860 as the appropriate date. It was during the sixties that photography first came to the aid of the engraver, and so prepared the way for the modern mechanical processes; during the sixties that a group of the most accomplished illustrators who have ever appeared in England were winning for the decade its

fame as the "Golden Age." A limit had also to be set to the scope of the collection, or the whole Museum would not have been big enough to hold it. The Board of Education, therefore, restricted the Exhibition to typographic work—that is, work that can be printed with type; and etchings, lithographs, steel engravings, and photographs were thus excluded. So far, so good. But the Board of Education went lamentably astray when it determined that the Exhibition "should comprise reproductions and the original drawings." To hang both drawing and reproduction is excellent, especially at South Kensington, where the aim of any such show must be educational. But to give precedence to the reproductions seems rather like putting the cart before the horse, and has led to some curious and unfortunate results. For instance, Menzel, whose influence is so proverbial that it has gained for him the hackneyed title of "Father of Modern Illustration," and Mr. Sandys, one of the most distinguished of the 1860 group, are seen only in the wood-engravings after their designs; and some of the younger generation are represented chiefly or altogether by later processes. When the drawing was made on the wood block and disappeared in the engraving, it is our misfortune; but when the drawing survives, it is by comparing it with the print that the merits of the reproduction can be judged. When circumstances necessitate a choice between showing a print alone or a drawing alone, it is only a South Kensington official who could fancy that more pleasure and instruction are to be had from the print.

However, it is too late to alter the scheme accepted by the Board of Education. The only thing that remains is to see how well it has been carried out within its limits. I must confess that my first glance at the Exhibition was most depressing. The collection has been arranged in one of the galleries of the Indian section of the Museum, an improvement on the wretched sheds where the lithographs were seen. But the hanging is after the fashion that prevails at the Royal Academy. It is too late in the day to insist that half the success, half the interest, half the value of an exhibition, depends upon the hanging. Good work is simply lost in the chaotic medley dear to the British Academician. And yet, in a succession of alcoves, and on a long line of screens, the drawings and prints at South Kensington are packed together as close as they will go; with never an inch to spare; some so low, or so high, that you would have to sit on the floor, or stand on a chair, at times climb a ladder, to study them properly. This would be bad enough in a gallery of paintings; but it is worse in the case of drawings and prints, meant to be looked at from no greater distance than the book, or magazine, or paper you hold in your hand. It is only reasonable to suppose that the Exhibition, as it is given at South Kensington, has a purely educational purpose. But the greater part of the work, the reproductions at least, the student can examine with far more comfort in the National Art Library round the corner. Want of space is no excuse. It is wiser to show a few good things well than a mass of good things badly. It is judgment, not space, that has failed. The gallery is not very large; but, with careful selection and a high standard, nu-

merous examples, now displayed in all the glory of Government patronage, would have been refused admission. There are too many illustrators nowadays, as every one knows, but that is no reason why they should be offered an asylum by the Board of Education. To be of use to any one, the Exhibition should recognize only the work of the masters. As it is, the rank and file have been cordially welcomed, excellent places and plenty of room found for them, to the entire confusion of the student and disappointment of the artist. A Bond Street dealer could not have been more indiscriminate. When you consider the mistakes of selection, and the abominable hanging, you cannot wonder that two members of the Committee of Advice—both illustrators, and possessing, therefore, some sense of proportion—resigned before the Exhibition opened, and that other members, of less zeal and more diplomacy, were careful not to attend the meetings.

The provoking part of it is that enough important work has been secured to prove how easily, with a little more trouble and intelligence and less red-tape, officials could have made the collection the complete success it ought to be. After all, the period is not so remote that exhausting research is needed to unearth its characteristic achievement. The 1860 group is by far the best, mainly because the task of rejection was lighter when there was question of the illustrators of *Once a Week*, *Good Words*, and the books that are now the delight of the collector—men of the distinction of Rossetti, Millais, Boyd Houghton, Holman Hunt, Ford Madox Brown, Leighton, Pinwell, Fred Walker, North, Keene, Du Maurier (in his early period), Mahoney, Arthur Hughes. They did not produce at the rate of the average illustrator of to-day, and but little slovenly work is to be counted against them. Even here, however, there are mistakes and omissions. If the engravings of Holman Hunt's and Millais's illustrations to Moxon's Tennyson are included, why not Rossetti's, or why not, for that matter, the engravings of Rossetti's illustrations to Alingham's 'Music Master' which mark the very beginning of the period? True, the book was published in 1855, but here is a case where a rule is made only to be broken.

I have said there is not an original Sandys—an inexplicable omission. And I saw at least one well-known print after Pinwell without the original which I know could have been had for the asking. Still, there is sufficient to repay the student, though he cannot possibly see half that has been hung. One thing he will learn, which should prove a useful lesson to-day, is the secret of the success of these artists, who gave as much thought and care to the smallest drawing as to the most elaborate painting. To them an illustration was not a trifle to be knocked off at any odd moment, a pot-boiler with no value save the money it brought in. Accompanying Leighton's illustrations to 'Romola'—engraved by Swain and Linton—are innumerable studies of drapery and sketches of scenery and subject. The proofs of Millais and Holman Hunt are scribbled over with endless and suggestive notes to the engraver. "You have cut one line into two round the little girl's shoes and face," Millais complains to the Dalziels in correcting his "Bridal Toilet" for the Tennyson.

"The eyebrows and lines below the eyes to be lightened," Holman Hunt tells the same engravers, in returning his "Lady Godiva." And so I might go on quoting other instances of their minute and unflagging attention to detail. Fortunately, the engravers were as interested and as keen about the work as the artist, and, as soon as photography made it possible, they photographed the drawing on to another block, and so saved the originals. There are several frames, contributed chiefly by the Dalziels or publishers of their work, that contain each the original design on the wood, the engraved block, and the print. To the same respect for the artist we owe also a most wonderful collection of drawings on the block by Boyd Houghton, perhaps the greatest illustrator of them all. Never have I seen such a fine series of his designs got together before. The next step was to allow the artist to draw on paper, and of the closing years of the sixties many originals remain. To compare these with the engravings is to understand only too well how much delicacy and strength and individuality was lost in the print, and to sympathize more than ever with the protest against the butchery of the engraver, even the most skilful, that fills more than one letter written at the time by Millais and Rossetti.

"Process," bringing with it greater freedom for the artist and a more perfect facsimile in the reproduction, was the growth of the following decade, only gradually superseding wood-engraving. As for the illustrators, after the sixties they increased and multiplied at such a rate that I can do no more than give a general idea of their interminable array. There are the men who made the *Graphic* in the beginning: Luke Fildes, Gregory, Herkomer, Small, to name but a few; there are the "war artists," with William Simpson, the very first, at their head; there are the "decorators," as they have been dubbed, William Morris and Burne-Jones, with borders and initials and designs for the Kelmscott Press; Beardsley, with the marvellous arrangements in black-and-white that impress one more with his genius now than when they were the sensation of the hour; the Birmingham School, hard, stiff, mechanical as were never the Primitives they ape; and every man, woman, or child, I might almost say, who has ever decorated a page, some accomplished, like Pissarro, Anning Bell, Miss Pitman; some but feeble, incoherent echoes of Morris or Beardsley. But, though the weakling has a place reserved for him, you look in vain for Shannon and Ricketts (there is one little drawing by Mr. Ricketts, to be accurate, but so insignificant it does not count), who have a sense of style all too uncommon in the vast multitude of exhibitors. And so you pass on to the illustrators of children's books—Randolph Caldecott, Miss Greenaway, Walter Crane; to the comic draughtsmen, Phil May their chief; to the contributors to weekly papers and monthly magazines—a saving remnant, really artists of note, Greiffenhagen, E. J. Sullivan, Hartrick, Hatherell; but the great horde—what am I to say of the great horde, whose drawings the students should never be allowed to look at on the printed page, but who are now brought forward by a kind and fraternal Government, and set up as models before an expectant world? There they all are, good and bad, jammed together

anyhow, with absolutely no attempt to separate the wheat from the chaff, or to supply the student with a clue to guide him through the hopeless maze.

The process reproductions hang with the drawings, good and bad, accepted with equal graciousness; the names of the engravers sometimes appearing in the catalogue, sometimes forgotten. Nor is there the slightest attempt at the comparative classification that would explain the progress made since the tentative efforts of the seventies and the beginning of the popularity of the new method in the eighties. If you happen to know anything of the history of process, you will chance upon many things to interest you; if you happen to know nothing, you will come away in a state of bewilderment bordering on despair.

Indiscriminate acceptance is the fault of the British section; wholesale omissions the crime—it is scarcely less—the foreign sections. Better not to admit foreigners at all than to do them such incredible injustice. In the French group, you ask, where are Forain, Caran d'Ache, Grasset, Lepère, Steinlen, and a score of others? And is it possible that no worthier examples were to be had of Willette, Renouard, Boutet de Monvel? In the German, you must conclude that the knowledge of the South Kensington official is limited to Menzel and *Fliegende Blätter*. Why show any Swiss work, if Florian, Carlos Schwabe, and Valotton remain absent? Why any Spanish if Virgè is classed with the French, Rico ignored, and no space spared for Fortuny, who also was at work in the sixties and seventies, who, with Menzel, was one of the principal influences of the century, and the reproduction of whose drawings was among the earliest triumphs of process? The Scandinavian section, rich in Tegnér, Hansens, and Skovgaards, is more complete, owing largely to the labors of a Danish journalist who lives in London. But in the United States section disappointment awaits the American. He will find, it is true, four prints of Mr. Whistler's drawings for *Once a Week*—beautiful drawings for whose loss wood-engraving is responsible; he will find representative work by Mr. Abbey and Mr. Pennell, who are in England, within comfortable reach; he will find a fine set of Mr. Cole's wood-engravings after the old masters, lent by the Century Company. But, for the rest, he will be struck by the fact that, to South Kensington, American illustration means chiefly the American chapter in the "Studio Winter Number," which only the official could fancy an infallible guide.

A practical section is arranged in the hall, where several process men have sent proofs, and process blocks and plates in various stages, and where, I believe, ultimately, a press is to be set up. But, so far, whatever the student may have gained from the show, the critic has proved himself hopelessly befogged. He is now, on the insufficient data supplied, announcing to the nation with pride that it is in England process has reached its most perfect development. The truth is, however, that the two firms of photo-engravers who do the best work in the country, had to import American craftsmen to establish their business, while, for all fine reproduction in line or half-tone, publishers are sending to Angerer and Göschl in Vienna.

But, on the whole, perhaps the most unworthy feature of the Exhibition is the cat-

alogue. My copy was obtained on Press Day, and "Under Revision" is printed on the cover. Therefore, the carelessness in the entries may be corrected in another issue—a carelessness that describes some of Mr. Cole's engravings vaguely as "Reproductions of Paintings," allows such an illuminating definition as "process colour print in tone and one colour," refers obscurely to "wood-engravings from special blocks," and is altogether unpardonable in an official publication published by the Board of Education. But nothing can alter the fact that the Introduction was intrusted to a man who had no technical knowledge of his subject. Laymen are not appointed to professorships in the art schools; why, then, should Mr. Henry B. Wheatley, who is not an artist, be chosen to instruct students and an ignorant public in the art of illustration? Mr. Wheatley is the editor of *Pepys*, but that scarcely qualifies him for his latest "job." Indeed, I can simply marvel how the writer of this Introduction managed to edit the *Diary*. Let me quote just one sentence to prove that I am not writing at random. Thanks to the invention of "half-tone process," he says, "the impressionist has a medium as satisfactory for his art as the artist who confines himself to pen-drawing has." The term *impressionist* has been a stumbling-block to many casual writers on art, but none has it brought to grief so completely as Mr. Wheatley. And it is the lack of intelligence he reveals in the use of it that characterizes the Introduction throughout. For some years past, South Kensington has been the subject of violent criticism, more or less deserved, but rarely has it exposed its inefficiency so deplorably. A great opportunity has been lost, and we must still look to the future for the Exhibition that will show us adequately the masterly work done by the modern illustrator. N. N.

THE SÈVRES NATIONAL MANUFACTORY AT THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

NEW YORK, December, 1900.

In a previous letter I made mention of the great frieze in hard pottery which stretches along the west front of the larger Palace of Fine Art. This facade, looking upon the Avenue d'Antin, has a huge archway of entrance in the middle, and on each side of this a continuous portico of Corinthian columns. Behind the columns, on the wall above the windows, is the great frieze, thirteen feet high and nearly three hundred feet long, but divided by the entrance gateway into two equal parts. Of this the general scheme and the drawings are the work of Joseph Blanc, though M. A. Thomas, as architect of the building, must have been heard as to its disposition. It represents, or embodies the different epochs in the history of art. It is built up of bricks of stoneware each about ten inches high, each one carrying some part of the relief. It is to be understood that this is not a brick wall covered with a facing of tiles adorned in relief; the brick wall itself has its surface modelled in relief, which, even as that other brick wall bearing the archers of King Xerxes's guard in Persepolis, is brilliantly colored. It varies in thickness from four inches to nearly ten inches in the most projecting parts. The sculptured surface of this wall has been modelled by the sculptors Barilis, Fagel,

and Sicard, and it is invested with the most brilliant and also with softer and cooler colors by means of a newly devised enamel from which the most permanent as well as the most brilliant effects are expected. The official catalogue contains a most interesting discussion of this subject, the shortcomings as well as the triumph being recorded.

This great composition is dwelt upon here because it is the most important work of the Sèvres manufactory since new influences began to prevail in that ancient establishment. There have been many different things done within its walls during a century and a half, but never before have great architectural compositions and out-of-door colored sculptures been carried through. There are other works of the kind. One of these is a most interesting fountain which stands among the grass plots southeast of the smaller Palace of Fine Arts, not far from it, but unfortunately in a place so remote and tranquil that few visitors can have seen it, and fewer still have stopped to study it. There is also in the Esplanade of the Invalides a remarkable architectural frontal which is built into the southward facing wall of the northernmost building. This was intended as one window of a special Sèvres pavilion, to be built entirely of the new wares of Sèvres, but the idea was abandoned because of the obviously heavy cost of such an undertaking. This was unfortunate, for if that building could have been put up in a place where it could have remained permanently, there would have been a standing model of what might be done for the glorification of our architecture hereafter, by means of color applied to modulated and harmonized form. The single bay of it which was put into place consists of a great archway with double pilasters to flank it, and a horizontal entablature above with slightly projecting cornice supported on modillions, but all of this treated without close adherence to classical models or even to those of the more free and original work of the Renaissance. It is the extremely clever design of one who combines the knowledge and practice of an architect with a superadded spirit as of the decorative designer applying his art to modern requirements: the catalogue assigns it to the architect Risler.

The forms were designed for the colors—the colors for the forms, and the combination of free sculpture of vegetable subject in realistic friezes, and rondels filled with figure sculpture, on the one hand, with very formal lines, horizontal, vertical, and following the curve of an arch, on the other hand, is in the highest degree suggestive of the decorative architecture of the future. The figure sculpture is by Coutan: a round forty inches in diameter is occupied by the personification of Ceramics; the frieze below has, in the middle, a projecting and larger shield-like member, containing a female figure representing Flame, and on each side of this a group of two children represent, one, the moulder with his wheel and the tender of the furnace, the other the artistic modeller and painter. The obvious intention was, when this bay was to form a part of the building, to bring this richly sculptured frieze just below the sill of the great window, and, therefore, not far above the eye of the spectator outside; while the circular bas-relief above described was to rise above

the sill of the great window and show relieved against the comparative darkness of the space within—a doubtful expedient, for we have found in this country that the glitter of glass makes a hopelessly bad background for a piece of sculpture.

Within the buildings on the southern side of the Esplanade, and forming a part of the indoor exhibit of the Sèvres manufactory, is a superb chimney-piece designed by Paul Sédille. The architectural composition is intended to reach the ceiling of a lofty room. All parts are covered with elaborate decoration, that of the broad band surrounding the arched opening being in natural flowers and leaves in full color as rich as the "palette" of the ceramic painter could make it, and a similar colored decoration in vine-leaves and fruit carried around the fireplace below; but the greater part of the decoration is left in the natural gray of the glazed stoneware. It can hardly be said that the life-size nude figures, the work of the sculptor Allar, are of the highest merit as works of modern sculpture; they have a perfunctory look, as if the artist were worried by a doubt as to how far sculpture used in so purely decorative a fashion should be ideally good. With this exception (and even this exception hardly applies to the great central figure, a nude female form personifying Flame), the decoration of the piece gives little opportunity for unfavorable criticism. Unquestionably if this superb style of decoration should obtain and should have permanent results, the details could be bettered. Unquestionably the figures could be more interesting, as well as more decorative and more sculptural; the conventional ornaments of the pilasters could be fresher in design, and the flowers and leaves of the great band could be more effective if there was less attempt to make them absolute copies of the natural blossom and leaf. A study of the best of the potteries of the Renaissance, and a study of Nature herself as to her real meaning, and not her surface forms, would show a way to greater achievements, even, than this very creditable, very admirable piece.

Around and near this chimney are the vases, large and small, the dishes and platters, the cups and bowls, the ceramic display of the Sèvres factory; and on the tables near are a series of sculptured pieces for the decoration of the dinner-table—pieces worked in white biscuit and modelled after the studies of some of the first sculptors of the day. Frémiet, Gardet, Moreau-Vauthier, Allouard, Chaplain, Joseph Chéret, Paul Dubois are all represented here, some of them by reproductions in small of well-known works, but others in designs made for the occasion and never seen before; they were carried out in white paste and fired for this exhibition. These are pieces of sculpture to be classed as sculpture, to go in a catalogue along with terracottas, and not especially characteristic of the decorative work of the manufactory at the present day, except in so far as they point to the artistic directors of the establishment having a free and large sense of their duty as possible guiders and formers of the public taste. The pieces which show what the art director at Sèvres is in search of are his own vases, large and small—his own pieces of daily utility. This director is a man well known to the art world of New York, that Alexandre Sandier who worked here as architect and as decorator between 1868 and 1880. He has been for four years in charge of the Sèvres manu-

factory as Directeur des Travaux d'Art, working along with Georges Vogt as Directeur des Travaux Techniques, and with Émile Baumgart as Administrateur or business manager, and aided by admirable and highly trained chiefs of departments, secretaries, and foremen. On the great principle of not speaking to the man at the wheel—of not interfering with the ideas and plans of the man whom you have decided to put in a place of trust—the French Administration of Fine Arts, with Roujon as Directeur des Beaux-Arts, leaves free the hand of their well-chosen chief of the Sèvres works. There has been a change, and some veteran keramists complain of it; but it is to have way. The cases are filled and the tables are covered with pieces which are in no respect like the traditional Sèvres vases of the auction sales of London and Paris. There is no *bleu de roi*, there is no *rose de Pompadour*, there are no smooth white vases covered with little *rincaux* of gold in slender lines, there are no pictures in medallions, round, oval, square-cornered, or framed in rococo scroll-work. The principle of the new Administration is, Not to repeat the old achievements. What was done was well done, and the world knows it; it is not for a great national institution to repeat what it has done and to keep perpetuating for ever even an admirable artistic achievement. To do that would be commercialism, and to do only what a private manufactory might do and would be justified in doing; it is for a Government-supported institution to go on from one achievement to another, and to see what the world has to offer to the bold seeker for fresh triumphs.

Accordingly, the general character of the decorations of Sèvres ware to-day may be expressed somewhat as follows: In the first place, the forms of the vases are very carefully chosen—chosen rather than designed anew. They are chosen and then modified, for the recognized and recognizable types of vases are known by their names of long standing—Vase de Beauvais, Vase de Rouen, Vase d'Albi, Vase de Bourges, Vase de Dijon, Vase de Sceaux, Vase de Creusot, Vase de Chatan, Vase de Villebon—three-score of forms designated by the names of as many cities, and, again, by certain names taken from rivers, and even, in a few cases, from men who have lived and have been known in the world of art. These forms are capable of a certain modification, and the very catalogue of the exhibition points this out in stating that No. 84 is a "Vase de Bougival, première grandeur, forme de M. Sandier." That is to say, M. Sandier has modelled a vase in slight divergence from the recognized form known as "Bougival," and we may imagine that that form will hereafter be known as Bougival-Sandier, or perhaps as Bougival of 1900. With greater freedom, Mr. Sandier and his assistants, the designers and modellers, have designed the new forms for tableware, whole services, and, as the modern taste requires, plates by the dozen, and of many different forms, plates and fruit-dishes, *compotiers* and *raviers*; cups and saucers, and the like. For the decoration of these pieces, natural forms have been drawn upon with great freedom, but likewise handled with great freedom; and here comes in the one point which one is inclined to speak of without hearty commendation. As to everything else in this new departure, it either is evidently very good, or presents all the

appearance of having great good within it. It is either a brilliant success already, or it is evidently leading to success. As to this one point, however, the matter of the extreme rigidity of the floral and floriated designs, the present writer cannot but urge certain considerations which seem to make against it.

If we consider a vase eight inches high in delicate porcelain of a creamy white, and decorated by six sprigs of formalized leafage, each of which rises from the bottom of the vase, expands upon its body, and diminishes in size toward the neck, we shall note that these sprigs are exactly like one another, and that they are spaced one from the other with rigid accuracy. It is evident that the compass has played an active part in the work of the draughtsman who first laid out this sprig, and of him who applied it six times upon the body of the vase. The extreme neatness and accuracy of the Sèvres wares are known to all collectors, and to many who, not being collectors, are still able to see and study the porcelains of this famous fabrique. A piece not perfectly circular in plan, not perfectly true in the horizontality of its lip, with the curve as seen here not absolutely balanced with the curve as seen on the opposite side of the vase, or as it is looked at from any point of view—such a piece is rejected, its Sèvres mark on the bottom is cut across with a file, and it is turned out of the factory to be sold as recognized second-class ware. It appears that such pieces are never painted or gilded in the factory, but are sold in the white. If, now, to the perfectness of manufacture in quality of paste and in exactitude of form be added a severity, a uniformity, a rigidity of design caused by this precise balancing of part with part of the painted decoration, the result is a piece so exact that it becomes harsh, and if not repulsive, at least a little annoying. The student of ceramics wearies of such precision, and longs for the swing and dash of the Chinaman who, two centuries ago, carried his sweeping curves around a vase with the intention of making them repeat one another, and with the desire to make one-sixth of his vase like each other sex-partite division, but who trusted to his hand and eye, and would have been more worried by the directions to use a compass and an exact measurement than the French designer would have been by orders to throw his own tools of precision into the drawer and turn the key upon them.

The writer holds in his hand such a Chinese vase as is familiar to all students, and notes upon the shoulder a frieze with six repetitions of a flower (never mind what flower it is), with four petals shown in the massive body, and four others curling over below, and notes that each of these six flowers is meant to be just like the others. It is, however, entirely certain that if one were to trace the outline of one of these flowers he would find that it would not fit upon any other without very marked discrepancies. And yet those are the same flowers: that simplified peony, and not another, is represented six times; though its colors vary, its forms do not. All that is insisted on is that it is drawn free hand, and that precise accuracy, the accuracy of hair's-breadths of a thickness of painted lines, is nowhere desired—would have been even repulsive to the Oriental artist. It does seem that the new adornments of Sèvres ware err

in this, that a vase six inches high or six feet high is painted with a precision so perfect that the possessor would never leave off trying experiments with it, and measuring this leaf and that to see if, in fact, they were exactly the same on every side from which the vase could be viewed.

This reservation made, there is nothing but praise to be given to the work of Sèvres as displayed this year.

RUSSELL STURGIS.

Correspondence.

MARSHALL IN MARBURY VERSUS MADISON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In the editorial article upon Chief Justice Marshall which appeared in the *Nation* of February 7, it is stated that the doctrine in *Marbury versus Madison* is *obiter*, that Marbury's application for relief was denied by Marshall upon technical grounds, and that this was properly all there was in the case, but that Marshall took the opportunity to state his view of the powers of the Supreme Court, and that his opinion affirmed the power of the court to declare void any act of Congress in contravention of the Constitution. This I understand to mean that the assertion in *Marbury versus Madison* of the power of the Supreme Court to declare void laws of Congress contravening the Constitution is *obiter*, and that the decision in the case went upon other and technical grounds.

The contrary is the fact. The case arose upon an application to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus to compel the Secretary of State to deliver an official commission. It was based upon a law of Congress which authorized the Supreme Court to issue writs of mandamus to any persons holding office under authority of the United States, without limitation to cases where the issue of such writ should be necessary for the exercise of appellate jurisdiction. The Constitution confers upon the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, consuls, and those in which a State shall be a party. The decision in *Marbury's* case was that the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court was, by the Constitution, limited to the cases mentioned; that the act of Congress conferring the power to issue writs of mandamus in cases of original jurisdiction other than those specified in the Constitution was void; and that, therefore, the court had no power to issue the writ to compel the Secretary of State to deliver *Marbury's* commission. The relief was denied, not upon technical grounds, but because it would necessitate the exercise of a power which Congress could not constitutionally confer upon the Supreme Court.—I am very truly yours,

H. E. SPALDING.

DETROIT, MICH., February 15, 1901.

[Our reference to the manner in which the question arose was *obiter dictum*, and intended merely to suggest that the right to a mandamus was conceded, while the application for it was refused as not properly made to the Supreme Court. The Judiciary Act authorized the Supreme Court to issue

writs of mandamus "in cases warranted by the principles and usages of law," and a moderate exercise of legal ingenuity would have made this phrase answer the requirements of the situation; but Marshall chose to go further. Probably he preferred to raise the issue in a case where he claimed that Congress had extended the jurisdiction of the Court rather than in one where it was restricted. The point which we had in mind may be thus stated: Marshall might have simply said, "This is an Appellate Court. It is not in accordance with the principles and usages of law for an Appellate Court to issue writs of mandamus when it thus takes original jurisdiction." In other words, it required a forced construction of the statute authorizing the Supreme Court "to issue writs of mandamus in cases warranted by the principles and usages of law," to make it a violation of the Constitution. Congress did not specifically confer, and probably had no idea of conferring, power to issue these writs in cases of original jurisdiction other than those specified in the Constitution; but Marshall had to assume this intention as the basis of his argument.—ED. NATION.]

FALLACIES OF THE STANFORD ALUMNI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As I perceive that the defenders of President Jordan intend to lay much stress on the report of the committee of the Stanford alumni, I think it important that a few facts respecting it should be remarked. First, it ought to be remembered that nearly all the alumni of Stanford are very young men. The oldest member of the committee was of the class of 1895; the chairman of the meeting, of 1899. Secondly, it appears from the San Francisco paper in which I first saw the report, that the meeting in which it was adopted was a small one; it was carried by less than forty affirmative votes. Thirdly, the committee, as was pointed out at the meeting, report in the main, not pertinent facts and evidences, but their own conclusions. The academic public, and that larger public whose interest in the controversy has been so gratifying, would gladly barter these conclusions for one piece of evidence which should answer the plain but pointed question: Why did Mrs. Stanford, four years having peacefully passed since the campaign of 1896, require the dismissal of Professor Ross shortly after the speeches in question, if it was not because of those speeches? That question has never yet been squarely met by President Jordan and his friends. The truth is, it admits of but one answer; and for that answer there are evidences before which the labored defence crumbles and collapses instantly. If I know anything of the historical students of the country, I could guarantee that these evidences would convince nine out of ten among those who have no personal interest whatever in the matter.

It is not worth while to take up much of your space with criticisms of the commit-

tee's report. It has been very neatly dissected in an editorial article in the Boston Herald of February 14. I make only a few comments. It is a natural question, why, if Mrs. Stanford's objections of 1896 were based not on economic, but on general grounds, it happens that in December of that year Dr. Ross's chair was changed from economics to social science. To say that Dr. Ross's willingness to remain at the University despite Mrs. Stanford's criticisms shows that he did not think his freedom of speech abridged, is to draw an inference by no means logical. Finally, if "a university rule against the participation in politics by a university professor of economics during the progress of a political campaign" would not "impair the proper right of academic freedom," what would? Might he vote?

The Stanford alumnus also quotes Vice-President Branner's remarks on Professor Howard's manly protest, which, after two months, was found to have been a mortal offence. They sound well. Academic propriety is a precious possession. To arraign the University management in the presence of one's class is a course of action which, in perhaps every sort of case but one, deserves severe punishment. But this case was of that one sort. There are some things more precious than decorum. When a fellow-professor is suddenly dismissed from his chair by a rich trustee, distinctly because of sober public pronouncements in the field of his science, in the face of so deadly a blow at the life of the University it is no time to be mindful of etiquette. In such a crisis, surely no one would wish to see Professor Howard tithing the mint and anise and cummin of academic propriety, and ignoring those weightier matters of the law apart from which universities are worthless.

As to Professor Flügel, a second reading of Professor Ashley's admirable letter in your issue of January 31 answers him sufficiently. Professor Ashley, in the plainest terms, declines to prejudge the case. He only says, what is perfectly true, that an honorable man who does not wish to countenance a species of iniquity fatal to the general good of his profession, ought to satisfy himself, by appropriate evidence, that Mrs. Stanford did right before he accepts a call to her university. If he is unable so to satisfy himself, he ought to remember Milton's resolve "to prefer a blameless silence before the sacred office of speaking, bought and begun with servitude and forswearing."

J. FRANKLIN JAMESON.

BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE, R. I.,
February 21, 1900.

[With this letter we must, for the present at least, take leave of this controversy. Since Professor Jameson wrote, a committee of the American economists who met at Detroit last December have examined all the evidence obtainable in the case, and have reported to the public at large (in the *Evening Post* of February 23, and through other mediums) their findings, which we lack the space to reproduce in detail. They acquit Professor Ross of "any defect in moral character," or of having given "occasion for his dismissal by incompetence" or "by any unfaithfulness in the discharge of his duties," or

by having "violated any confidence reposed in him." On these heads they quote to the contrary from letters in President Jordan's own hand. They hold that the charge of defaming the late Senator Stanford, if true, was not a motive for the dismissal, again quoting President Jordan. In short, Mrs. Stanford was the promoter of the action which President Jordan could not prevail with her to stave off, and the determining consideration with her was Professor Ross's public utterances on silver, coolie immigration, and municipal ownership. The committee consisted of Professors E. R. A. Seligman of Columbia, H. W. Farnam of Yale, and Henry B. Gardner of Brown.—ED. NATION.]

BLACKSTONE ON THE PHILIPPINE INVASION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The following extract may be of interest to some of your readers. It is from Blackstone, book the second, "Of the Rights of Things":

"Upon the same principle was founded the right of migration, or sending colonies to find out new habitations, when the mother country was overcharged with inhabitants; which was practised as well by the Phenicians and Greeks, as the Germans, Scythians, and other Northern people. And, so long as it was confined to the stocking and cultivation of desert, uninhabited countries, it kept strictly within the limits of the law of nature. But how far the seizing on countries already peopled, and driving out or massacring the innocent and defenceless natives, merely because they differed from their invaders in language, in religion, in customs, in government, or in color; how far such a conduct was consonant to nature, to reason, or to Christianity, deserved well to be considered by those who have rendered their names immortal by thus civilizing mankind."

Would that our war sprang from a prejudice against "language, religion, customs and government, and color," for then we should excite only hatred among the Filipinos. But, as it is, with our glabrous pretences, threadbare sanctimoniousness, and coarse greed, we excite contempt in addition.

JOSEPH DICK.

TOLEDO, O., February 21, 1901.

THE GARNETT ANTHOLOGY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I say that Mr. Louis N. Wilson's suggestion as to the probable character of the 'Universal Anthology' ('Garnett Anthology'), in your last issue, is a misapprehension? Publishers of a work of this sort are unfortunately placed for a public reply to public criticism, because the latter is welcomed and privileged as a literary service (fairly enough), while the detailed schedule and comparison which would be the only effective defence would be excluded as disguised advertising. I think it will come within admissible limits, however, if I say that the "slight changes" involve the cancelling of one-half the old matter and its replacement by new, besides the addition of as much more fresh matter; that several volumes have not a line of matter ever used before in that or any other anthology, and several others very little; that,

in point of novelty and inaccessibility and consequent value to the purchaser, the new matter would itself constitute a very valuable as well as very large set; that several dozens of these articles are translations made specially for it; and, finally, that, as the new set contains nearly 4,000 pages more than the old, it is a matter of irrefutable mathematics that the former must have consisted of nearly a third new matter, even if none of the old had been thrown out at all—which is not the fact by some 5,000 pages.

The other portion of the letter, on the fictions of canvassers anent the "Pepys," does not directly concern me, but I may be allowed to say that a firm should be held responsible only for the advertising matter it itself prepares, and not the soaring imaginations of agents, which it cannot control, and that such a counsel of perfection would involve giving up agency business altogether, and, in fact, abolishing "drummers" in all trades. This very fact led a firm I know well to refuse to do agency business for a long time, because it could not prevent agents' romancing and did not wish to be held responsible for the results. In this case I cannot see that the canvassers adorned the truth more than is the usual and thoroughly discounted custom in any trade; an *édition de luxe* of the only complete edition is fairly enough a part of that "only complete." The *emplot* may be reasonably bid *caveat* to the extent of knowing that such a work as 'Pepys's Diary' cannot be exclusively issued in a limited extra-illustrated edition. I do not defend the fiction, which certainly cannot have been authorized, but it is very tame and quixotically truthful compared with the representations under which works like the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' and the 'Century Dictionary' were habitually canvassed, and which no one dreamed of discrediting the publishers with.

Very truly yours, FORREST MORGAN.

HARTFORD, CONN., February 23, 1901.

THE NAME HERSCHEL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In a delightful review of Mr. Sime's 'William Herschel,' published in your issue of January 24, I note a singular etymology of the great astronomer's name. It has no connection, as there suggested, with the old High German *Hér*, but is a diminutive of *Hersch*, which is a well-known variant upon the "common or garden" *Hirsch*, a stag.

Z.

FLORENCE, February 8, 1901.

Notes.

D. Appleton & Co. will shortly publish 'Pleasures of the Telescope,' by Garrett D. Serviss; a revision of Gen. J. H. Wilson's book on 'China'; 'Some Ill-Used Words,' by Alfred Ayres; and a trade edition of Père Didon's 'Life of Jesus Christ' in two volumes.

Harper & Bros.' March announcements include 'American Engineering Competition,' sundry articles of recent appearance in the London *Times*; the New York *Sun's* articles illustrating 'The Progress of the Century'; 'The Bolivian Andes: A Record of Climbing and Exploration,' by Sir Martin Conway; vols. iii. and iv. of Justin McCarthy's 'History of the Four Georges'; and

'Ten Singing Lessons,' by Mme. Mathilde Marchesi.

Macmillan Co. have nearly ready 'The Romance of the Heavens,' a popular work on astronomy by Prof. A. W. Bickerton of the New Zealand University; and 'The Feeding of Animals,' by W. H. Jordan, Director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva.

Houghton, Mifflin & Co. will publish directly Dr. Lyman Abbott's 'Life and Literature of the Ancient Hebrews.'

'Lessons in Law for Women,' by Walter S. Cox, formerly of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and 'My Ocean Trip,' a book for tourists, are among forthcoming works of Brentano's.

Just two years ago we had occasion to notice with praise M. H. Levasseur's 'L'Ouvrier Américain.' This valuable work now comes to us in English dress, translated by Dr. Thomas S. Adams, and edited with abundant annotations, extending the sources of information and bringing up the statistics to date, by Theodore Marburg of Baltimore, in which city the handsome volume appears as one of the Johns Hopkins University Studies. An index has been provided for it. Under its new title, 'The American Workman,' it is thus qualified to prolong its useful career in the country to which it relates, and which was studied by the author upon the spot.

Another laudable work, dating from the first half of last year, namely, Paul Leroy-Beaulieu's 'La Rénovation de l'Asie,' has not been rendered stale by the rapid march of events in China, and may still be called timely, as we called it then. It now appears as 'The Awakening of the East: Siberia—Japan—China,' from the press of McClure, Phillips & Co., with a preface by Henry Norman. Here, too, an index has not been overlooked.

'Hans Memling,' by W. H. James Weale, in the "Great Masters" series (London: Bell; New York: Macmillan), is a book of the careful, catalogue order, containing descriptions of all authentic and most attributed works of the master, and but little in the way of biography or criticism. Indeed, as to biography there is next to none to be written, investigation having destroyed the Memling legend and put nothing in its place. The volume will prove valuable for reference, if not of great interest to the general reader.

'Girls' Christian Names,' by Helena Swan (E. P. Dutton & Co.), is the title of an attractive little glossary in which are given the history, meaning, and literary associations of women's names in vogue among English-speaking peoples. The volume might have been reduced to half its size by the omission of unimportant illustrations: e. g., we read under the heading "Mildred" that there is a young artist in London named Miss Mildred Butler, and under "Sara," that one Sara Williams, a servant, was in the seventeenth century suspected of being possessed by the devil. The profuse quotations lend what literary interest can attach to such a book. It is hardly worth while to criticise the English of so trivial a compilation; still, we must deplore the use of such phrases as "she got mixed up with Anna." On p. 26, where we should have expected a reference to the Latin adjective, we are told that the Christian name Alma is derived from the famous battle of that name. The book will probably seem superfluous to most people, but, a hundred years hence, one who should be

confronted with the recently christened "Modderina Belmontina Methuena Jones" would be justified in sighing for just such a glossary.

Of the thirteenth volume of Mr. Charles F. Lummis's illustrated *Land of Sunshine* (Los Angeles, Cal.), as of its predecessors, it remains true that the editor's contributions are the raciest and most readable; and to be noted among them are his characterization of two preëminent students of Indian life, the late Frank Hamilton Cushing of Zuni fame, and A. F. Bandelier, who are also portrayed photographically. Mr. Lummis, too, has revised and made himself responsible for the accuracy of Mrs. Edward E. Ayer's translation of Fray Juan de Santander's memorial to Philip IV., 1630, while Mr. F. W. Hodge has annotated it. Besides the usual miscellany of this magazine, relating to the climate, natural history, scenery, and writers of the Pacific Slope, we may remark some facsimiles of old prints of early scenes in the American settlement on the coast. Nor has the editor failed to record the railway extension from the Santa Fé line to the Grand Cañon, abolishing the choking all-day stage ride.

The thirteenth report of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Records is notable for a review of legislation in that State concerning public records from colonial times; a list of city clerks with their terms of service; and, of more general interest, accounts of the State standard ink, with formula, and of standard record paper. From the eleventh report is reprinted in an appendix the exhibition of the location of towns in counties, concluding with a long list of such as have been incorporated in more than one county.

'Phillips Brooks House' is the title of a privately printed pamphlet in which Mr. E. H. Abbot, a classmate of the famous preacher, gives an account of the building of this house, "dedicated to piety, charity, and hospitality," together with the addresses at the dedication (of which President Eliot's interesting reminiscences were the distinguishing feature), a list of subscribers, and photographic views of the exterior and interior. There is a large reception room for social uses on the ground floor, a hall named in honor of Prof. A. P. Peabody, with seats for 220 people, on the upper floor; the other two floors are devoted to rooms for the religious societies of the University.

A catalogue of books recommended for Sunday-school and parish libraries, issued by the Church Library Association of Cambridge, Mass., will be found useful to all interested in the reading of the young. About a quarter of the 1,600 titles are of books which bear directly upon church life, history, or doctrine. The remainder include carefully selected books from nearly every department of literature. The list is divided into subjects; the entries are by title, often with a brief characterization, and publisher and price are mentioned.

A welcome addition to Malwida von Meyssenbug's 'Memoiren einer Idealisten' and 'Lebensabend einer Idealisten,' noticed in these columns two years ago, is her volume 'Stimmungsbilder,' of which a third and enlarged edition has just been issued by Schuster & Loeffler in Berlin. It is a collection of thoughts and reflections on various topics—the training of children, marriage, the possible political influence of woman, the social question, the rejuvenation of Italy,

the uses of philosophy, the cultivation of the intellect in its relation to morals; and ends with interesting reminiscences of the Russian revolutionist Alexander Herzen, whose daughter Olga, now Madame Gabriel Monod, she educated and adopted. The author, who has now passed four-score years, bates no jot of earnestness and enthusiasm in the pursuit of her high ideals, whose ultimate realization she still hopes for.

The Department of Public Works of France has the advice and assistance of a commission of about one hundred scientists and engineers on questions relating to the properties of materials of construction. This commission was organized by the French Government in 1890, and its first report appeared in 1894. In June of last year a second session was held, whose Transactions have just been issued in the beautiful typography of the Imprimerie Nationale. The first volume gives official documents and the conclusions adopted; the second contains reports on metals, and the third, papers and reports on stone, timber, leather, and other materials. The methods of testing which are discussed include not only the physical ones of strength and ductility, but also microscopic and chemical work. Microscopic examinations of steel, indeed, have been so developed in the past decade that they have proved of great value in the study of the causes of physical properties, and are beginning to come into use in the laboratories of manufacturers. The structure of wood, the bacteria which produce rot, and the methods of preserving timber are also discussed at great length in these Transactions. The valuable work done by this French commission suggests the advantage of international coöperation of engineering associations in making experiments on various qualities of materials, so that standard uniform methods of testing may be finally established.

Gravitation and inertia are two fundamental properties of matter whose causes are entirely unknown, although they are supposed to be connected in some way with the mysterious ether of space. A book by Professor Bjerknes of the University of Stockholm, entitled 'Hydrodynamic Distant Forces,' has recently been published at Leipzig, which contains a novel and interesting contribution to this important question. He supposes that a number of spheres, which have the property of contracting and expanding in a rhythmic manner, are placed in an incompressible and frictionless fluid, and then ascertains by a mathematical investigation the force that each exerts upon the others. Such a pulsating sphere, he finds, either attracts or repels each of the other spheres inversely as the square of the distance between their centres; this being the same law as for magnetic poles. These spheres obey the law of inertia, remaining either at rest or in uniform motion unless acted upon by external forces; but the law of action and reaction is not always observed. While an ether of the assumed properties, acting upon such assumed spheres explains some electric phenomena very well, it does not appear to throw especial light upon the question of gravitation, although the indications of the theory are so important that Professor Bjerknes promises a second volume of further investigations.

The beginning of the century has brought with it the first instalment of a work on

the Protestantism of the world, which, on account of the scholarly character of its contents, and the fine mechanical make-up, promises to be a significant addition to modern literature. It is entitled 'Der Protestantismus am Ende des Neunzehnten Jahrhunderts, in Wort und Bild,' and is edited by Pastor C. Merckshagen of Berlin, and published by the Wartburg house of that city. It is intended to be a scholarly survey of the Protestantism of the past and the present. The coöperation of nearly one hundred prominent scholars, representing the various Protestant countries, has been secured, and each one of the proposed fifty parts will discuss a leading phase or person of the general problem, by the aid of one or more of these writers. The first instalment, in folio form, and consisting of twenty-four pages, contains, from the pen of Prof. Dr. F. von Bezold of the University of Bonn, an excellent bird's-eye survey of the factors and persons that prepared the way for the great movement of the sixteenth century; the second instalment is devoted entirely to the person and work of Luther. The illustrations are simply admirable.

The German Parliament has adopted the resolution, offered by Müller-Sagen, which proposes the introduction of a uniform revised orthography for the whole Empire. This is the first time that the imperial legislative body has taken the matter in hand, the various systems of revised orthography now extant having been introduced by the leading States of the Confederation, with differences in minor details. No doubt one or other of these systems, probably that of Prussia, introduced by Minister von Puttkamer, would have gained the supremacy had not men high in power, especially Bismarck, taken a firm stand in opposition. The Chancellor permitted none of his subordinates to make use of it, and his example was followed by other Ministers. Nevertheless, the Prussian system has found wide acceptance. The "Boersenverein" of German publishers recently made inquiries as to the extent to which this revised orthography was used, and of 631 publication houses which sent in replies, 406 employed only this system, 58 only the old, 141 used both, while 8 used only the Austrian system.

Germany is again the principal subject in the Consular Reports, the February number containing an account of an organized effort, by the forming of a national association of manufacturers, merchants, and bankers, to secure the continuance of the present commercial treaties. At one of its meetings the statement was made in reference to the Agrarian opposition to their renewal, that only sixteen per cent. of the entire wealth of Germany represents the value of lands adapted to the cultivation of cereals. The Agrarians, on the other hand, insist that, in respect to food products and other materials, Germany is becoming altogether too dependent on the United States, asserting that, in the decade ending 1899, there was a net balance of \$200,700,000 against the Empire in favor of this country. Other subjects treated in this number are American expositions in Constantinople and Guadeloupe, and a projected railway from the Great Lakes to Hudson Bay. The line, known as the Algoma Central, starts from Sault Ste. Marie, twenty-five miles being completed and in use. "It had its origin in the necessity of bringing supplies of pulp-wood from the far North

to the Sault mills, but it opens up as well a region that is fabulously rich in minerals and timber." The capital has mostly come from this country, but the Ontario Government has aided in the construction of the railway by a large land grant.

The Quarterly Statement of the Palestine Exploration Fund for January contains reports of excavations, and a list of the numerous jar-handles with Greek stamps recently found at Tel Sandahannah, with conjectural readings of some of the inscriptions by different scholars. In an account of a voyage along the eastern border of the Dead Sea, some facts are given which indicate that this almost unknown region is rich in mineral wealth. "Along the shore we found pieces of pure sulphur as large as one's fist, and lumps of bitumen as large as a man's head." In another place, "oil poured out from the rocks and covered considerable areas of the sea. Instead of falling from the oars in drops, the water fell in filmy sheets as if it were pure oil." We are requested by Dr. F. J. Bliss, until recently Director of Excavations for the Palestine Exploration Fund, and still at Beirut, Syria, to print the following paragraph from the above Statement: "The Committee are glad to learn from Dr. Bliss that the state of his health has very materially improved during the last few months, and that he is now better and stronger than at any time since the excavations which are just completed were begun."

Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, number one, opens with an account by the veteran explorer, Dr. G. Schweinfurth, of a journey made in 1882 for the purpose of tracing the western limit of the Nile valley from Fashit to the first cataract. In the course of it he discovered several places containing records of the past which are still awaiting examination. Among these is a cave which, from its inscriptions, was probably a place of refuge for Christians during the persecution of Diocletian. Dr. C. Martin contributes a beautiful map of southern Chili, with notes, which conclude with a confident prophecy that a prosperous future lies before this region and western Patagonia as soon as it has regular communication by rail and steamship with the rest of the world.

Prof. Ernst Haeckel, undisturbed by the battle which is still being fought at home over his 'Welträtsel,' is pursuing his researches in the islands and waters of Malaysia. He is not, however, bent upon unearthing further remains of Eugène Dubois's *Pithecanthropus erectus*, which newspaper reports make the main object of his journey, but rather, as he states in a first instalment of letters to the *Rundschau* for February, upon completing his protracted studies of pelagic organisms, including the "investigation and representation of the beautiful forms in which their life displays itself." He hopes thus to find additional material for his 'Kunstformen der Natur,' the publication of which was begun in 1899. The interest of the letters does not centre entirely in scientific subjects; the writer's observations often resemble those of the ordinary traveller, as when he compares the elaborate dinner of the Lloyd steamer with his frugal meal at Jena, consisting of Thuringian "Rostbratwurst" and a glass of beer. The occasional touches of sentiment and naïveté lend charm to the narrative.

—The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey has issued, as "Special Publication No. 4," a quarto volume of 871 pages containing an account of 'The Transcontinental Triangulation and the American Arc of the Parallel.' The completion of this great undertaking, the most extensive geodetic work ever attempted by any single government, marks an epoch in the history of science in the United States, and is regarded as a notable event in the annals of geodesy. The transcontinental triangulation, which was designed to connect the triangulation lines already executed on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, began in 1871 under Prof. Benjamin Peirce, third Superintendent of the Survey, and has been prosecuted by all of his successors. The terminal points are at Cape May, New Jersey, and Point Arena, California, and the intervening distance is 2,625 miles. In the present volume are brought together not only the observations themselves, but also a description of the instruments and methods employed. The gigantic scale of operations has necessitated the introduction of many improvements, and the progress of the work has been coincident with that of geodesy itself, so that the book is, in a measure, a history of the science during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The nature of the country traversed has developed new ideas concerning signals and tripods; and the mounting of an instrument 152 feet above the ground and the erection of an observing pole to a height of 275 feet are features hitherto unknown in similar work. So are the calculation of geographical positions when lines of sight are 182 miles long, and the adjustment of the triangulation in a chain of 2,600 miles of continuous geometrical figures. Astronomical results obtained at an altitude of 14,000 feet demanded special treatment, on account of changed conditions in attractive and centrifugal forces. The ordinary formula for spherical excess required extension to meet the demands of the great triangles from Pike's Peak to the Sierra Nevada, and the great inequalities in the heights of the stations necessitated a modification of the laws of refraction applicable at lower and equal elevations. It is to be noted that, for the first time, corrections have been introduced for the variations of latitude. The results of this survey are of far-reaching consequence. Sixteen States have been given fundamental permanent points on which all their subsequent surveys may be based, and valuable material has been supplied for a more exact determination of the earth's size and shape. The volume contains over fifty illustrations and two folded maps.

—It is with a strong valedictory feeling that we notice vol. lxxi. of the 'Jesuit Relations' (Cleveland: Burrows Brothers Co.), for, apart from the index, which will occupy two volumes more, it marks the conclusion of Mr. Thwaites's work. We have followed this long series with much persistence from beginning to end because we have felt the undertaking to be a very considerable one and worthy the attention of scholars. Rarely has a set of historical documents covering so wide an extent of territory and so long a stretch of time been brought out with such rapidity, with such clear signs of editorial care, and in such handsome form. If by repeated recurrence to the subject, as the successive parts appeared, we may have wearied some readers, we trust that we have rendered a certain service to more by keep-

ing this valuable section of Americana before their eyes. For the North American Indians it is a *sine qua non*; it shows the deeds of the Jesuits at their best, and no records of American exploration awaken a more lasting interest. The history of the Order in Canada closes (until its modern restoration) with the death of J.-J. Casot, who died at Quebec in 1800. He had at first been merely a lay brother, but was in 1766 ordained to guard against a complete extinction of the Society. The missions came to an end shortly after the Jesuits were condemned by the Parlement of Paris. In 1768 Father Meurin writes from the Illinois that he has collected no tithes for four years, and that he lives by charity or what he gets from saying masses. Under English rule the sole question of importance relates to the disposition of Jesuit property. It passed to the Government, and was held by the Province of Quebec when Mr. Mercier introduced his Jesuits' Estates Act, which awakened Canada in 1888 to a lively remembrance of the Black Robes. The task of index-making really begins in this volume with a double list, alphabetical and chronological, of the Jesuits who were connected with the Canadian mission from first to last. The total number is 320. There is another useful list of Governors and Intendants from 1608 to 1760, and the English Governors of Canada, 1766-1805, are also catalogued. The classified bibliography of "authors consulted" shows how the notes have been prepared. Here, finally, is to be found the attractive recently discovered portrait supposed to be of Père Marquette, as we have already related. Four years ago we began our reference to this series with a note of good-will; we conclude it with a word of congratulation to editor and publisher.

—Since Zotenberg published his epoch-marking 'Notice sur quelques manuscrits des Mille et une Nuits,' there has been no contribution to that study so useful as the bibliography of Professor Chauvin of the University of Liège, the first part of which has lately appeared. It forms volume iv. of his great 'Bibliographie des Ouvrages arabes ou relatifs aux Arabes publiés dans l'Europe chrétienne de 1810 à 1885,' a most laborious and praiseworthy work in continuation of the much less laborious and praiseworthy 'Bibliotheca Arabica' of Schnurrer. It is true that Professor Chauvin does not make as brilliant discoveries and fertile combinations as those which we owe to the industry and sagacity of Zotenberg; his hypothesis, *e. g.*, that the final editor of the Egyptian recension of 'The 1,001 Nights' was a converted Jew, and, perhaps, the figure known in Jewish literature as the pseudo-Maimonides, will probably not meet with much acceptance. But by his labors the bibliography of the 'Nights,' printed and in manuscript, Oriental and European, has at last been put on a trustworthy foundation. For this volume does not, by any means, limit itself chronologically or geographically within the bounds of its title. It takes account of the editions of Galland, his translators, supplementers and rivals, from the first and down to the present time, and includes as well the various Arabic texts and versions printed in the East. The known manuscripts, too, are reckoned with, and the fullest details given that Professor Chauvin could gather, up, as to their characters and contents. He describes further the different imitations,

in good and in bad faith, Oriental and European, and gives tables of the contents of these as well as of the texts, manuscripts, and translations of the great original. References, too, we find for articles on the 'Nights' and reviews of the principal editions: it is much to know where to look for what De Sacy, Rückert, A. Müller, Leigh Hunt, August von Schlegel, etc., had to say from their very different standpoints. Finally, when the second part has appeared, with analyses of all the tales, anecdotes, etc., accounts of their editions when published separately, and indices for the whole, we shall have a bibliographical thesaurus of the first rank.

—As an illustration of the width and interest of this book, the treatment given to Dr. Mardrus's "translation"—*sit venia verbo*—may be adduced. The volumes published are bibliographically described, and extracts are given from the preface, and from an article by Dr. Mardrus in the *Revue Encyclopédique Larousse*, on his own work and methods. It is evidently written in defence, and is amusing enough. The claim to literalness is repeated. He has used all the printed texts, and also certain manuscripts, but has relied, above all, on a manuscript in his own possession, which had been the source of the first Bulaq edition. This brings out clearly the issue between Dr. Mardrus and the Arabists. When we consider that it is by no means the habit of Egyptian printers to trouble themselves with editing and abbreviating their "copy"—always excepting indices and such useful things which they regularly cut down or out—also that the Calcutta edition is certainly a complete reproduction of a MS. brought from Egypt and full sister to that which lies behind the Bulaq edition, it seems clearly "up to" Dr. Mardrus—with permission for the slang—to support his statements and translations by production of his MS. This matter of simple honesty is not to be confused with certain other points in which Dr. Mardrus undoubtedly has the right. His conception of a purely literary version, in which the idea of translating and the figure of the translator must remain in the background, and from which all apparatus of notes, learned or otherwise, shall be rigidly excluded, is the only possible one.

—On some few points Professor Chauvin can be corrected and supplemented. On p. 9, at the reference to De Wallenburg's 'Notice,' it would have been well to add a cross-reference to p. 224 of Müller's 'Sendschreiben' (19 J. on p. 6), where that 'Notice' is examined. On pp. 112 f., Professor Chauvin is somewhat severe on Burton for citing the Bourdin edition of Galland, as edited by De Sacy. His suggestion that Burton has misunderstood the title, "ne sachant pas assez le Français," is enough to make that eminently French linguist turn in his grave. Chauvin has himself misunderstood Burton, who (viii, 71) distinguishes between De Sacy's and Bourdin's parts. The gravamen of the accusation against the great Arabist is really that he, to all appearance, wrote his 'Mémoire' without consulting the Arabic original. On p. 116 Professor Chauvin has missed the 'Selection from the Writings of Henry Torrens, with a Memoir by James Hume. Calcutta and London. 1854.' It contains a reprint of all the verse and some of the prose in the single volume of the translation of the 'Nights'

which Torrens printed in 1839. P. 197, it would be interesting to know what is the authority for ascribing an Egyptian origin to Galland's manuscript. Zotenberg does not do so in his 'Notice,' and an old note (A. D. 1548) in the manuscript itself is dated from Tripolis in Syria. The history of MS. C, on p. 198, may be pushed a stage farther back by reference to Humbert's 'Anthologie Arabe.' By comparison of pp. 9 and 157 of that book it can be established that the MS. in question—4678-9 in the Paris Library—is a copy of a certain "beau manuscrit de M. Sabbagh, actuellement [1819] entre les mains de M. Baudeuf." The original MS. was brought from Egypt (p. 9, "apporté d'Égypte"), was in the hands of M. Baudeuf, and has now vanished; a copy was made by Michel Sabbagh (p. 157) for Caussin de Perceval, père, and is MS. C. above. That there are so few points open to criticism shows how excellent a piece of work has been done by Professor Chauvin for students of the 'Nights.'

—The careful investigations of the Danish "kitchen-middens" that have been conducted during the fifty years since Japetus Steenstrup and Jacob Worsaae pointed out the significance of these monuments of the Stone Age, have found a fitting summing up in a work just published in Copenhagen under the title, 'Affaldsdynger fra Stenalderen i Danmark' (The Kitchen-Middens of the Stone Age in Denmark). This splendid volume, with its numerous illustrations by Magnus Petersen and others, consists of contributions by the seven scholars who, during the last eight years, have been making an exhaustive study of the middens in different parts of Denmark. The subject has been investigated from the standpoint of botany, geology, and zoölogy, as well as from that of archaeology proper, and the credit of starting the movement is due to Dr. Sophus Müller, Director of the Museum of Northern Antiquities in Copenhagen. The most important single result of this investigation, as presented here, is the absolute confirmation of the theory that the Stone Age is represented in the middens in all but its latest subdivision. The middens all lie near the original water-line, and in all of them the principal element is oyster-shells, thrown there after eating by the prehistoric inhabitants. The Danish name means literally refuse-heaps. Oysters, together with other bivalves, and snails, and the flesh of some wild animals, formed the chief articles of food of these prehistoric Danish folk. The only domestic animal found in the middens belonging to the older Stone Age is the dog. Remains of many extinct animals and birds have been found, and at least two of the middens contain skeletons of human beings, sometimes in rude stone coffins. Thousands of stone and clay articles have been removed from the middens and deposited in Copenhagen. The early cooking-places also remain, but no trace of the dwellings of the settlers has been noted. Detailed information is given of the species of trees that flourished in prehistoric Denmark, based on examination of the charcoal. While the archaeological discoveries of Greece and Rome have been followed with interest by the whole cultivated world, the important labors of these Danish savants have been practically disregarded by all but specialists. It is to be hoped that, in the not far-distant future, this record of their work may be put in a

language that will make it accessible to a larger public.

THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY IN LITERATURE.

The Transition Period. [Periods of European Literature.] By G. Gregory Smith. Charles Scribner's Sons. 12mo. Pp. xv + 422.

No country in Europe had, in the period surveyed in this book, a strictly national literature; there were no clearly defined dominant ideas, no great individual writers, and the only writings of the period at all approaching the first rank were, like the 'De Imitatione Christi,' the 'Amadis de Gaule,' or the 'Morte d'Arthur,' rather the late fruition of preceding ages than the characteristic product of the fifteenth century. But although Mr. Smith, in persistently emphasizing the importance and influence of the individual writer, refuses to take his stand with the literary Darwinians, and although he strives for "a generous uncertainty and see-saw of impression," he does contrive to present the essential, pregnant fluidity of his period in a clear and orderly fashion. He schematizes his material under four primary heads: the allegorical change in the general poetry of that time; the course of ballad poetry; the rise of the dramatic motive; and the elaboration of a formal prose.

The excellent Scotch poetry of James I., Henryson, Gavin Douglas, and Dunbar, is the subject of one of the best chapters in the book, which shows clearly how these able craftsmen saved themselves from the dullness which got hold upon the literature south of the Tweed, by conceiving a fresh idea of the poetic possibilities of allegory, by converting to a literary engine what had been a mystical cultus. Mr. Smith shows good literary judgment in differing from Mr. Courthope's opinion of Douglas, in emphasizing his position as a conventional court allegorist, and in minimizing it as an exponent of the new humanism. We must agree that Douglas, in his half-heartedness, is no such protagonist of the travail of his age as the more vigorous and original Dunbar. How Mr. Lowell could have written against the "dullest vulgarity" of this all but great poet, and complained of his "needle of wit in a haystack of verse," has long been a mystery. With the increase of our knowledge concerning him, and especially since the publication of Schipper's admirable volumes of text and biographical criticism, Dunbar has come to seem to the majority of students by far the most considerable British poet between Chaucer and Spenser. Mr. Smith's characterization of his vigor, melody, broad and mellow humor, and double gifts of pungent satire and elegiac pathos is discriminating and adequate. He makes the attractive suggestion that the "Complaint to the King," which has been something of a philological puzzle, was a bit of fifteenth-century whimsicality, a piece of nonsense verse analogous to "The Hunting of the Snark," or to any other ditty of the Topsy-Turvy muse.

The chapter on the course of ballad poetry is, in some sense, the crucial feature of the book. In it Mr. Smith defends a thesis which, although it is but a slight advance upon and codification of the most recent theories, differs so widely from the

traditional opinion of scholars and general readers that it is likely to draw down upon him the reproach of heresy. His position is, briefly, as follows: Admitting, as we must, that there is no manuscript ballad extant of a date earlier than the middle of the fifteenth century, there is absolutely nothing to prove that the mass of ballad poetry existing in all European languages can be referred to a much earlier date. In other words, there is no solid ground for either of the generally accepted theories of ballad origins, that the original ballad was the work of that hypothetical person, the "ancient minstrel," or that, as the phrase goes, "it just grew." He holds, on the contrary, that the ballad was written, as a recognized art form, by minor poets, and sometimes, as we know in the case of Henryson and Dunbar, by the greater ones: that the ballad form is merely "the atrophy of the romantic tradition"; that the historical or romantic ballads were simply the redaction of the old material of the Chronicle, Romance, or Fabliau into the form which was made necessary by the general movement of the time toward curtailment, and toward episodic rather than compendious treatment. He admits that in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the ballad in its decadence became something very like a popular genre, but he denies that it was such in its origin. His argument is fairly convincing. The evident rhetorical trickiness of the characteristic ballad style, with the inversions and refrains, which struck the jaded eighteenth century as the very voice of nature, has seemed to some later students to savor strongly of the shop. Moreover, there is, as Mr. Smith says, "something in the timbre of the oldest ballads which is different from the mere voice of mediævalism. To quote his summary of "Chevy Chase" and "Sir Patrick Spence":

"The oftener one reads these admirable ballads, the more difficult it is to destroy the impression that they were not produced in the heat and scurry of the events. Mingled with their feeling of the past is a feeling for the past. . . . Even in pieces whose subject is of the fifteenth century—that is, strictly contemporary—we recognize this attitude, just as (to complete the heresy) there is, in their stir and naïveté, a pretty suspicion of artfulness. Nor are such things strange, for the fifteenth-century spirit was neither naïve nor original, and could not be so till it had passed through a gross and cynical materialism. A great part of its higher enjoyment was in a sort of historical reverie."

In the case of French popular song, the conscious art displayed in the handling of difficult and intricate forms, like the rondeau, clearly mark it as poetry of a rhetorical kind. So far as Spanish ballad-poetry is concerned, the greatest of all in bulk and in merit, Mr. Smith is in agreement with the historians from Ticknor to Kelly in regarding it as a late growth, coming only after Santillana had begun the Italianate poetry of Spain, and operating upon the material afforded by the disintegration of the *cantares*, or romance-poems. Italian *stornelli* and *rispetti*, which, in a rough way, correspond to the ballad poetry of the other nations, were, says our author, following Symonds, merely handed down by memory from literary originals, centuries old. The view of German *Volkslieder* as literary exercises only a little less trammelled than the conventional Minnesong, though it has the sanction of Scherer, is violently opposed to the trend of German scholarship

in this field; and, as Mr. Smith himself admits, the evidence here is inadequate.

The most important contribution of the fifteenth century to the course of European literature was its development of the dramatic motive. Here France is taken as the starting-point of the investigation because there the drama emerged the earliest and progressed in the most orderly manner, through the various stages of mystery, miracle, and morality, or *sottie* and farce, until, with the help of classic models, it finally culminated in Augustan tragedy and comedy. In this section Mr. Smith is chiefly concerned with the secularization of the drama, but he does not forget the characteristic movement from the compendious cycle to the episodic single play, and from the abstract generalization to the concrete type. The general course of dramatic history is outlined much as it is by Ward or by Klein, emphasis being skillfully laid on the points most essential to the balance of the book. One is a little surprised that there is slight mention of the masques and mummings which arose in this century, and which, as recent scholarship has shown, played such an important part in the strictly theatrical phases of the Elizabethan stage.

The chapters upon the rise of prose as a literary medium are unusually informing. The chief tendencies are again found to be those so characteristic of the century, curtailment and rhetorical self-consciousness. Here the writings of southern Europe and Germany are of the lesser importance. The Italian *vite* and *novelle*, Spanish chronicles or romantic stories, and the German picaresque novel 'Till Eulenspiegel' are of some moment to the specialist, but they must yield both in individual and in historic interest to the work of Commynes or of Malory. The story of the rise of English prose through the conscious labors of Fortescue and Peacock, the rhythmically modulated sentences of Malory, and the lively French-taught prose of that *obstetrica musarum* Caxton, is excellently told. As a whole, following his elect method of "generous uncertainty," our author has given that impression of the atmospheric prevalence of an artificial prose which is probably nearest to the truth. Particularly interesting to the reader is his comparison of the French and English prose of this period:

"None of the English writers whom we have just discussed made any claim to be considered as poets. In France, on the other hand, we shall see that the poets, and many of the best of them, not only wrote in prose, but inclined more and more to that medium, and at times, as with Chartier, produced their best works in that form. The separation between poetic and prose style in England has always been, at least in its later stages, well defined and more absolute than in France. This is obvious alike by general contrast and by comparison of each kind in any individual author—between the verse of the Elizabethan drama and the prose of the Marprelate pamphlets, or between the prose and verse of Milton, of Dryden, or of Coleridge. There is no such distinction of spirit and manner between the *contours* and poets of the fifteenth century, or between the prose and verse of Chastelain, or indeed between the prose and verse of any French writer from that time down to the generation of the author of the 'Travailleurs de la Mer' and the 'Chants du Crépuscule.' The interest of the matter to us is, that this national contrast is already discernible amid the very beginnings of modern prose style in the fifteenth century."

From the point of view of the scientific and carefully cosmopolitan student of Eu-

ropean literature it may seem that the present volume too often takes English letters as the central point of departure, and perhaps does not give Italy quite all the space she deserves, as the mother of the humanism which was spreading throughout the latter half of this period, and was soon to transform all literary art. To the English reader, however, this is a manifest advantage, and, so far as the scholarly balance of the series is concerned, this patriotic bias will doubtless be offset in the succeeding volume upon the earlier Renaissance, by the general editor, Professor Saintsbury, who is never so well content as when invading an alien literature.

In general make-up the book, like all its series, is admirable. The convenient marginal analysis, and the full and accurate bibliographical material—relegated to the proper place, the footnote—will facilitate the use of the book by the students for whom, primarily, it is intended; on the other hand, the brisk style of it will render it tolerably comfortable to the lay reader.

JOHN PAUL JONES.

Paul Jones, Founder of the American Navy.
By Augustus C. Buell. 2 vols. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1900.

John Paul Jones, Scottish peasant lad, British merchant seaman, American colonial naval officer, Commodore (at least by courtesy) in the Continental navy, French Chevalier, Russian Admiral, and citizen of the world, as well as of the United States, still remains one of the most striking figures ever connected with the history of our country. No individual of or since his time has aroused so much bitterness of feeling and wounded English pride so keenly as this impetuous man and brilliant sea fighter. Quite recently we have had an exhibition of this feeling in several English magazine articles, one, by so well-known a naval historian as Professor Laughton, being entitled "Paul Jones, the Pirate"—a title reflecting little credit upon this author's fairness or upon his knowledge of the proper definition of the word so freely used.

Born in 1747 by the north shore of Solway Firth, John Paul, so widely known afterwards as Paul Jones, was one of six children of John Paul, a Scotch gardener and fisherman. Four of the six children, including Paul Jones, emigrated to America, making Virginia for a greater or less period their home. William, the eldest, according to the author of this book, had been adopted in 1743 by a well-to-do and childless Virginia planter named William Jones, a distant relative of the Pauls, and as a result of this adoption he took the name of Jones, which in turn was taken by the younger brother when he succeeded to the elder brother's estate. At the age of twelve Paul Jones was said to be as well knit and hardy as a boy of sixteen; with a sea aptitude and skill beyond his years and fellows. It was at this age that he made his first deep-water voyage to Virginia, and before he attained his majority he became a shipmaster in the American and African trade. In making his last trip to Virginia as a merchant seaman, he found his elder brother at the point of death, which, following soon, caused the younger brother to give up his ship and take the place of his elder brother, both in name and in plantation.

Of his life for the following two years as a Virginia planter but little is known or recorded, and that little is mostly found in his published letters to Mr. Joseph Hewes, afterwards a member of the Continental Congress from North Carolina, and at all times until his death a close friend and correspondent of Paul Jones. In the events preceding the outbreak of the war of the Revolution, Jones identified himself with the Virginia and North Carolina patriots, and in his journal he states that he availed himself of the occasions that offered to assure Colonel George Washington, Mr. Thomas Jefferson, and all the rest that his services would be at the disposal of the Colonies whenever their cause should require such services upon the sea. On the 24th of June, 1775, the Naval Committee of the Continental Congress, of which Mr. Hewes was a member, invited Paul Jones, gentleman, of Virginia, master mariner, to lay before the Committee such information and advice as might seem to him useful in assisting the said Committee to discharge its labors. Upon reporting to the Committee, Jones was at once placed upon a commission, of which Robert Morris was ex-officio Chairman, to report upon the condition, availability, and expediency of purchasing certain vessels for the navy then lying in the Delaware River. Of the vessels thus referred to, six were purchased upon the commission's recommendation, and in this manner, as well as in other ways to be mentioned, John Paul Jones became identified with the founding of the American Navy.

With respect to the naval personnel needed, Jones addressed a letter to one of the members of the Naval Committee in answer to interrogatories, in which he set forth at length the necessary qualifications for officers of the navy. This letter is very wisely reprinted at length by our biographer, and must be considered as sound and as applicable to the present day as it was to the times in which it was written. Mr. Hewes, the member to whom the letter was addressed, states that Washington upon reading it said that "Mr. Jones is clearly not only a master mariner within the scope of the art of navigation, but he also holds a strong and profound sense of the political and military weight of command on the sea. His powers of usefulness are great and must be constantly kept in view." In regard to the question of building frigates and ships of the line, Jones wisely said that at the stage under consideration it was unwise to attempt building ships of the line. Their use, he stated, was mainly strategical, for which purpose, he reasoned, they must operate in fleets and squadrons, calculated to fight ranged battles, to make extensive demonstrations, or to protect military expeditions over the seas. The plan was, with the presentation of Jones's sagacious arguments against it, abandoned, and the programme of construction presented by him was, with a few changes, adopted by Congress.

Jones was appointed in 1775 a lieutenant in the navy, his short residence in the Colonies being one of the reasons given by Mr. Adams for not making him a captain at once. He was assigned to the *Alfred* as its first lieutenant, and in her took part in an expedition under Commodore Hopkins against Nassau. He afterwards was given command of the little sloop *Providence*, in

which he made his maiden cruise as commanding officer of a naval vessel along the coast of Nova Scotia. This cruise was so successful as to add much to his reputation as a skilful seaman and as a naval officer who at once grasped the salient points of the situation before him, not only when it was within sight and touch, but when it became known to him upon the broader field that lay beyond his immediate vision. Upon his return from this cruise in the *Providence*, he received two important pieces of information. One was the receipt of his commission as a captain in the Continental navy, duly made out in accordance with the resolution of Congress; the other was conveyed in letters from his trustees and agents in Virginia, and informed him that, during July, an expedition of British and Tories, under Lord Dunmore, had burned all the buildings of his plantation, killed his live-stock, destroyed his growing crops and fruit trees, and carried off all his able-bodied slaves of both sexes to Jamaica to be sold. We find little stress laid upon this ravaging in the English lives of Paul Jones, while Jones, in his letter to his friend Hewes upon the subject, says, most temperately:

"Another most serious concern to me is that this destruction cuts off my source of revenue. During the three seasons of my ownership, 1773, 1774, and 1775, the net income from the agriculture, trade, and milling of the plantation was nearly 4,000 guineas in the aggregate, over and above all necessary outlays. Since my coming to Philadelphia, a year ago, I have lived on this surplus, having drawn from the public funds only £50 in all that time, and this not for pay or allowances, but to reimburse me for expense of enlisting seamen."

As a result, Jones had no fortune left but his sword, and no future except what would follow from his success in warfare. He certainly had additional and personal incentive to warlike effort against Great Britain from the destruction of his property in Virginia.

After a short but successful cruise in command of the *Alfred*, Jones was appointed by act of Congress to the command of the ship *Ranger*, and on the 1st of November, 1777, was under way in command of that ship, bound to France, where she arrived early in the next month. His cruise on the *Ranger* in the following spring included the landing at Whitehaven and the capture of the sloop-of-war *Drake*. After the ending of this short but eventful cruise came a delay before Jones was able to sail in command of the long-promised squadron composed of his own ship, the *Bon Homme Richard*, the frigates *Alliance* and *Pallas*, the brig *Vengeance*, and a coast-guard cutter called the *Cerf*. The concordat signed by Jones and his fellow-captains at the request of Franklin made the little squadron as weak in discipline as it was motley in composition, and the engagement of the *Bon Homme Richard* with the *Serapis* stands out not only as the great and brilliant engagement of the cruise of the squadron, but practically as the only successful feature of its troubled existence. But it was enough. This famous action, as the author well says, shines as the first instance in history of the surrender of a British man-of-war to a ship two-thirds of her force. To this must be added the remarkable fact that the surrendered ship had practically first destroyed her antagonist, and that the flames of the *Bon Homme Richard* were extinguished by the water that was rapidly filling the hold

from her leaky hull. This extraordinary state of affairs was accentuated by the desperation of the combatants and the indomitable spirit and leadership of Paul Jones, making it as a sea action unexampled in modern naval history, and fit to be perpetuated in a ballad like that of the *Revenge*. John Paul Jones and Richard Dale should have their names perpetuated in the navy of the United States by the appropriate battle-ship, for this action alone.

The return of Jones to France brought him high praise, but few honors, and still more sparingly was opportunity afforded him for further service under the flag he served so well and distinguished so greatly. The intrigues centring about Arthur Lee, one of the American Commissioners to France, were not only antagonistic to Franklin, but adverse to Paul Jones, whose friend he was. As actual war was developed against Great Britain by France, the regular forces and regular officers came into play, and the desire seems to have been to relegate Paul Jones to the rôle and ranks of the privateers. This rôle he would not take.

Notwithstanding his distinguished service, he could obtain only the command of the *Ariel*, a twenty-ton corvette; the command of the *Serapis*, his own prize, being withheld from him. His failure to obtain a new squadron was to him a bitter disappointment, and the controversy, stirred up by Arthur Lee, that awaited him upon his return to America, did not soften the disappointment. Finally, the tide turned, and the praise and honors awarded him included what promised to be the best of all in the passage—unanimously of a resolution by Congress appointing him to the command of the seventy-four ship, the *America*, then building at Portsmouth, N. H.—the largest ship of her armament in construction at that time. This, however, proved in time to be but another disappointment, as state policy led to the presentation of the *America* to France, where in time she was received and renamed the *Franklin*.

Upon the conclusion of peace, with its consequent reaction, physical and general, Paul Jones, now known to contemporary history and since as Commodore Jones, although but thirty-six years of age, showed signs of breaking down, and went to Bethlehem, Pa., for the rest and the tonic he found in the bracing air of the Lehigh valley. On the 1st of November, 1783, he was appointed a special agent to collect the prize-money due in France to the American seamen who had served under his command. Leaving Philadelphia again on the 10th. of November, he reached Paris by the way of London on the 7th of the following month. He revisited London more than once later, and his reception was far from being unfriendly or inhospitable.

A personal description of Jones, given by English contemporary sources, is found in a London letter, written in 1786, to a Whitehaven paper, the latter place certainly not a locality that would call for flattering descriptions of Jones. Speaking of his visit to Lloyds in 1786, it says: "In appearance he is of middle stature, slender build, has delicate features, a swarthy complexion, his attire is of the most faultless make-up, and his bearing martial and imposing to the last degree." Jones returned again to the United States in 1787, and, by resolution of Congress, was awarded rather tar-

dily a gold medal for his services while in command of the squadron, of which the *Bon Homme Richard* was the senior ship; he also parted with his Rappahannock plantation, and, while this visit was the last made to America, it was doubtless the most pleasant he had experienced in the matter of public and private appreciation and distinction.

Upon his return to Paris, he was informed by Mr. Jefferson, then the American Minister to France, that the Russian Ambassador to France had requested him to lay before Jones a proposition looking to an engagement in the Russian navy. No answer was given by Jones at that time, but when it was definitely renewed by the Russian Minister at Copenhagen, he accepted the commission of Rear-Admiral in the Russian navy. It was not his intention to renounce his citizenship of the United States in entering the employ of the Russian Empress, but, as he was without employment from his own country, his active temperament as well as his professional ambition determined his decision. The navy proved to be far from what he expected, and though his service was of a creditable nature, it was satisfactory neither as a career nor in its results. This step of Jones's did not meet with the approval of Franklin or Washington, both of whom blamed Jefferson for his part in promoting it.

Returning to France, with broken health, Jones became identified with some of the foremost spirits of the French Revolution, and undoubtedly had hopes of holding a leading place in the organization and control of the new French navy. It was not so to be, however; the rule of the Jacobins was destined to come to an end, but even sooner was the career of Jones to terminate. On the 11th of July, 1792, at a supper given by the members of the Central Jacobin Club, he was toasted as the coming Admiral of France, and one week later he was found dead in his bedroom.

We commend the book under review as the best life of John Paul Jones that has been printed in any language. The author has utilized the recent work in French of Doniol and the publication, under the direction of Congress, of the diplomatic correspondence of the American Revolution, to throw much light upon the earlier career of Jones in France during the Revolutionary War.

RECENT NOVELS.

The Mantle of Elijah. By I. Zangwill. Harper & Brothers.

The Last Refuge. By Henry B. Fuller. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The House behind the Cedars. By Charles W. Chesnutt. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The Fugitives. By Morley Roberts. McClure, Phillips & Co.

The Queen versus Billy, and Other Tales. By Lloyd Osbourne. Charles Scribner's Sons.

A Semi-Detached House, and Other Stories. By J. Try-Davies. Montreal: John Lovell & Son.

Perilous Times. By David Dwight Wells. J. F. Taylor & Co.

Whilomville Stories. By Stephen Crane. Harper & Brothers.

Dr. North and his Friends. By S. Weir Mitchell, M.D. The Century Co.

From the Land of the Shamrock. By Jane Barlow. Dodd, Mead & Co.

With Hoops of Steel. By Florence Finch Kelly. Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Co.

Appearing opportunely at the end of the Victorian era, 'The Mantle of Elijah' (a novel that discusses national politics) assumes an interest both historical and contemporary. To contrast ideals of the middle Victorian period with ideals of the last decade is to give a fiery imagination a swing, and a novelist may legitimately seize the moment, heedless of conscientious scruples that forbid hasty judgment and premature conclusions. In a vein of despondent unbelief comparable to Matthew Arnold's, Mr. Zangwill reviews the England of Liberalism triumphant in politics, the England whose conceptions of happiness were based on Free Trade, Free Speech, Free Education, and most conspicuously on Peace. He has lived to know profoundly and perfectly what Mr. Arnold foreshadowed, and his revelation is an England where the Philistines, having reaped a handsome profit out of their dull, hypocritical preachments, have embraced the Barbarians, and have set up their old gods, their only true gods, Gold, Lust, Tyranny, and War. What sincerity and moral beauty there may have been in the earlier ideals are personified in the Liberal Cabinet Minister, Mr. Majorimont, or, as he preferred to write his family name when he had cut loose from the aristocratic traditions of which it was a symbol, Mr. Marshmont. "His soul," says the author, "was of the old, eternal pattern, that seeks the Kingdom of God, and is jarred by Ahabs and Jezebels, but his coloring was according to his epoch." Later on, the mob, as unappreciative of such fine spirit as ignorant of Biblical phrase, hooted Marshmont out of political existence with the sordid epithet, "Petty cash." Marshmont (Elijah) went out of office on the question of the Novabarbesse war, a name that does not conceal an acute phase of the long-standing trouble between Great Britain and the Transvaal.

A vigorous and astute Elisha snatches the Prophet's mantle, and assures legitimate succession by marrying (*en secondes nocces*) Allegra, Elijah's daughter, in whose youthful and beautiful breast her father's faiths are flaming. The name, "Bob Broser," is as thin disguise as is "Novabarba." There can be no doubt about what statesman is thus publicly pilloried, nor any hesitation in deciding that when to his strong personality there is added Mr. Zangwill the composite portrait is not an alluring one. About Broser, as he soars, there is always an aroma of the prize-ring, and Mr. Zangwill's characterization is best described as powerful slugging. Broser has neither public virtue nor private honor, and the most cynical of Tory Cabinets would conceivably beg its bread rather than pick him up with tongs. For the Marshmont family Mr. Zangwill appears to us to have had models born in a class where there would have been no need to mutilate a name as a declaration of principle. The Duchess is, we imagine, pure *chic*. Duchesses are, of course, rather hard to get at for study from life. Mr. Zangwill's Duchess is not in the least like any of Mr. Browning's Duchesses, and he had a rather varied assortment. She is a unique Duchess, and we are inclined to think that Mr. Zangwill has taken too great liberty with her species. In the delineation of Allegra, Broser's wife, he seems to have gone wide of probability, to show no instinct

about Englishwomen. After living a score or so of years with Broser (completely disillusioned), she resolves to leave him. The decisive influence is that of a pessimistic, journalistic Jew, accidentally picked up on a mountain top. What he offers Allegra in compensation for Broser is not so clearly passion for her as an opportunity to abandon herself to him in a sort of romantic experiment, promising certain emotional results, eagerly desired by him. For Broser's idols, material splendor and brute force, Dominick offers a German-Jewish abstraction, unwholesome, negative, incomprehensible in English; for Broser's pomp and palaces, an easily computed income and the existence of a pariah in slums at home, in dismal inns abroad. Such are not the prospects likely to seduce an English Allegra verging on middle age. But these are minor matters. Mr. Zangwill's first intention was to speak his mind about the Victorian English, and especially about Mr. Broser. This he has done very liberally, with the spirit of a pessimist, the judgment of an alien, and in a smashing, whacking style.

The imperishable longing of the human spirit for happiness which has inspired countless legends, allegories, and tales of heroic or fantastic adventure, is set forth with a very agreeable originality by Mr. Fuller in his Sicilian romance called 'The Last Refuge.' The theme is as old as the race; the moral, or morals (for there is a moral to suit every case), have all been drawn before, but the personages of the romance are modern, and the desires, ambitions, yearnings, which prompt them to seek a fabled City of Happiness, lying by a Southern sea, are not those of a primitive or unsophisticated society. The plot and adventures are as fantastic as a fairy tale, frankly beyond reconciliation with probability—a process which the author has gayly disregarded as not pertinent to his aim. The people, on the other hand, are very real, types of our world, genially satirized and sharply enough individualized to conceal for the moment their general significance, so the atmosphere of romance is not chilled by the suspicion that we are considering abstractions. The quality and variety of the author's purely literary equipment must be recognized as rare and effective. Separate from the gift of a whimsical imagination and the power to penetrate to the heart of things, there is an array of beautiful description, of vivid narration, of humor, of irony, of illuminative phrase and epithet—acquired graces that most adorn imaginative literature. Perhaps as good a proof as can be offered of Mr. Fuller's fitness is that, after one reading, certain situations, figures, passages, and phrases stick in the mind. The figure of conquering youth, for instance, has been done so often in every medium known to art that it would seem impossible to render it again with freshness; yet Mr. Fuller's description of Bruno de Brunelli entering a Roman ballroom, costumed as Bacchus, and making a confident way through the crowd with the sweep of his garlanded thyrsus, is memorable. And throughout the romance, Bruno is so well up to the standard of his radiant entrance that, though we may not quite agree with the Freiherr von Kaltenau gloomily declaring that youth is the sole divinity to whom belongs all, "beauty, love, the hope and glory of the world," we are quite of his more temperate view that "there are cases

where the" years take from us more than they give. Yet, with all that may be justly said in praise of 'The Last Refuge,' one fears that it may not be widely read, and it is not as another tribute to excellence, but as a mild bid for popularity, that one further describes the tale as distinctly, at times broadly, funny.

The tragedy of 'The House behind the Cedars' is one for which the strongest literary presentation would fail to excite unquestioning sympathetic horror. A great many persons of kind and generous sentiment believe that a white man breaking his engagement to marry a woman who has left him to discover by accident that she has a strain of negro blood, is morally and rationally justified and without dishonor. Such an opinion does not necessarily shield itself behind law or custom, but may be rooted in natural antipathies and a belief that, for the happiness of the individuals and the good of society, such an engagement is better broken than kept. Within the limitations imposed by this point of view, the chief situation of Mr. Chesnutt's novel makes a strong appeal to emotion. While he leaves no doubt about his own judgment or feeling, he does not exaggerate iniquities or hurl recriminations. He probably has but faint hope of upsetting social beliefs, and indeed the catastrophe suggests that such tragedies as the sacrifice of Rena Walden seem to him inevitable, therefore all the more pitiful. As in his shorter stories of his own people, Mr. Chesnutt shows here frank recognition of racial differences, yet, seeing both black and white through a fine literary temperament, is not concerned to set one against the other either for praise or disparagement. He has an easy, educated way of telling a tale; and a special interest in the "negro question" is not at all necessary for enjoying his work, or for deriving an æsthetic pleasure from his sincerity, simplicity, and restrained expression of deep feeling.

The publication just now of novels dealing with the South African war may be enterprising from the publisher's point of view, but is more likely to destroy an author's good reputation than to make one. We are too close to facts, or at least to press reports of facts, and sympathy flows with passions and prejudices which are national, not personal. The English people don't need stories to justify their position, and won't tolerate stories that attempt to justify Mr. Kruger. Mr. Morley Roberts, in his tale, 'The Fugitives,' ranges himself unequivocally on his own side, thereby missing a perhaps commercially advantageous popular censure, and almost surely earning popular indifference. For he has nothing to tell that the man on the street does not already know, and his manner of reiterating heroic and sorrowful things already known has no quality that might revive a jaded interest. His love romance is obviously padding of a silly sort, and his descriptions of Mr. Kruger only confirm an established conviction (of no great importance) that though English gentlemen are obliged to fight him, they would (socially speaking) decline to meet him.

Mr. Lloyd Osbourne's tales of the South Seas, entitled 'The Queen versus Billy,' recall, not unworthily, the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still. The reminder of Stevenson is more in our mental association of the two authors, and in Mr. Osbourne's choice of subject and

attitude towards the island races, than in a resemblance of manner or style. Whatever he may have learned from Stevenson, he is not a servile imitator, and has plenty of original force, shown most conspicuously in selection of incident and in expression of passion and of the more tender human sentiments. The tales are strong in conception and well told; and naked Kanakas appear in them more clearly to have points of affinity with those who have the clothes-wearing habit than they do in any of Stevenson's South Sea stories that we remember.

'A Semi-Detached House,' bound up with other tales and hailing from Montreal, has nothing distinctly Canadian about it except the publisher's imprint. It may be that Canada is emerging from colonialism in a literary way as well as in other more aggressive ways. The domestic experiment narrated in the title story involves too many perils and too much expense for common use, but the result in the case discussed has never been called a domestic calamity. An uncommon situation is ingeniously developed, and the workmanship shows a grasp of essential principles of the short story. Most of the volume, indeed, expresses an art well understood, derived from French models. Unfortunately, the moral qualities of French tales are seldom so admirable as their form, and what is gained from them in one way for English fiction may be lost in another. Mr. Try-Davies has gathered some sound wheat, but has not sternly rejected tares.

'Parlous Times,' by the late David Dwight Wells, appears to have been written before he had acquired the art of writing farcical comedy, so well illustrated in 'Her Ladyship's Elephant.' If this very long novel had been cut by half, incidents judiciously selected, and coherence given at least complimentary notice, it would have been readable, perhaps amusing. In its actual condition, it is like a savage wilderness, from roaming through which there is no pleasure except emerging and forgetting.

Perhaps authors, being mortal and subject to sudden death, should be as careful about memoranda of manuscripts to be burned as substantial persons are about their wills. Mr. Wells's literary reputation is damaged by 'Parlous Times,' and Mr. Crane's might justly be annihilated by 'Whilomville Stories.' It would be comforting to think that he meant to satirize one group of American children for the eternal good of all American children, but, on reflection, there is nothing to support such a kindly opinion. One of Mr. Crane's greatest defects was his capacity for admiring the wrong things, and at Whilomville there appear to have been no correcting influences or objects. No children in the world are good enough to read these tales without losing the bloom of their virtues.

Almost everybody who believes himself to be intelligent may be heard, at one time or another, expressing a regret that the age of conversation is past. An attempt to read the conversations between 'Dr. North and his Friends' is likely to stifle such regrets; indeed, to convert them into an ardent prayer that the art may not be revived, at least in our time. The excellent persons introduced by Dr. Mitchell do not stop at longing for conversation—they go in for it; there is never a moment when they are unready or unwilling to embark on

any subject, concrete or abstract, and to thrash it into shape or out of existence. It is improbable that any age ever provided conversation in greater quantity or of (let us say) higher quality. Nevertheless, the strongest impression made is that such conversation does not perceptibly mitigate the dulness of life; from which position one may even go on to reflect, with some thankfulness, that the whirligig of time relieves existence of certain terrors.

Miss Barlow's latest Irish tales will be satisfactory to those who have not read the earlier volumes. Miss Barlow has not deteriorated, perhaps, but she has added nothing to her many vivid and sympathetic sketches of the Irish peasantry. She does not escape that monotony which comes from the lack of new suggestion and always overtakes writers of tales of locality.

Since the alarming novel called 'With Hoops of Steel' comes to us from Indianapolis, foreigners might easily fall into the error of supposing that the coloring is local, not knowing that that city has long enjoyed the blessings of law, social order, and culture. It is certain, however, that the scene of action is in the United States, and that the free-born inhabitants of the region are badly in need of missionaries, soldiers, and every other civilizing influence that can be spared from foreign service. Exploits similar to those of the three ranchmen, who grappled their precious souls together in friendship's bonds (the better to murder withal), are too familiar to excite consternation, but the conduct ascribed to the citizens of Las Palmas, to the honorable court, and to political leaders, is encouraging to pessimistic critics who declare that the republic is a failure. Trying to put one or another of the desperadoes in jail is the serious occupation of one-half of the town, led by a Republican sheriff, while the frustration of such unfriendly action absorbs the energy of the other half, guided by a Democrat, Judge Harlin. Even the women, we are told, sometimes "felt the war spirit," and that "early in the day." There were, it is true, moments when the wearied town "rested on its arms, and glared across Main Street, each party from its own side," when "there was no more talk of extreme measures, and no more threats of blood-letting." After such premonition of a truce Judge Harlin (Democrat) would "stroll leisurely across the street, nod to Col. Whittaker and Sheriff Daniels [Republicans], and the three men would go into the White Horse saloon and clink glasses together over the bar." These stately movements intimated that the Angel

of Peace had temporarily descended on Las Palmas, "after which all the town put away its guns, and went quietly about its usual affairs." The word "usual" is misleading as applied to any affairs not referable to the arbitrament of "guns," but the statement is soothing and suggestive of a short rest for the wicked, like Pepys's frequent "and so to bed."

Sport and Travel, East and West. By Frederick Courteney Selous. Longmans, Green & Co. Imp. 8vo, pp. 311, illustrated.

The sport here referred to consisted in the slaughter of large game—not a reckless, indiscriminate killing; but a careful selection of such as would furnish the desired heads for mounting as trophies, with an occasional individual for meat. The travel was done in the localities providing the sport. Nearly half of the book relates to Asia Minor, hunting for wild goats and stags; the remainder to the Big Horn Country near the Yellowstone, in Wyoming and Montana, in pursuit of elk, deer, sheep, and pronghorn antelope. Mr. Selous is very successful, both as hunter and author. While his stories contain no thrilling adventures or hair-breadth escapes, they are very good reading indeed, whether they concern the travel in and about the hunting grounds, or the chase and the habits of the game and the ways of getting it. No one will question the accuracy of description. The greatest enthusiasm appears in accounts of the climate and the scenery. After all his African and Asiatic experiences, the author can imagine no more perfect country in which to hunt than the Rocky Mountains must once have been, when game was still plentiful; yet the glorious air and the grand wild scenery remain, and some very fine animals of their kind are by no means yet extinct. His guns were a Metford .450 bore, a Lee-Metford of .303 bore, and a Mannlicher of .250 bore; the last most favored. Expanding, hollowpointed bullets were used. The greater number of the shots were at long range, a hundred and fifty yards or more, and most often the game was to be trailed by the blood, as from shots in the lungs, after shooting, because of the small calibre of the rifle. A number of expressions heard by the way among the Americans are put in quotation marks as amusing to English ears: "I guess," "clean crazy," "I think I can see sheep," "We're quite a small crowd here to-day," "Well, that's a pity." American readers will note in the text several phrases not commonly heard in this part of the world: the reporter

"proved to be a very good sort," the elk "must have broken back" before he was quite prepared for "galloching," they "successfully negotiated the eagle's nest," the ascent was not "too steep for an American pony to negotiate." Among the few scientific names, *Neotoma* is rendered *Nestoma*, *Pediocetes* is spelled *Pedlocetes*, and *Speotyto cunicularia* is changed to *Speotitis cunicularis*.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- Abbott, Lyman. *The Life and Literature of the Ancient Hebrews.* Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.
Bickerton, A. W. *The Romance of the Earth.* London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co.; New York: Macmillan. 80 cents.
Bourchier, Sir John. *The Chronicles of Froissart.* Vol. I. London: David Nutt.
Choate, J. H. *Abraham Lincoln.* T. Y. Crowell & Co. 35 cts.
Cooper, E. H. *The Monk Wins.* Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co.
Day, Edward. *The Social Life of the Hebrews.* (Semitic Series.) Scribners. \$1.25.
Dickens, Charles. *Domby and Son.* (Authentic Edition.) London: Chapman & Hall; New York: Scribners. \$1.50.
Eckstorm, Fannie H. *The Woodpeckers.* Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
Finck, Bert. *Webbs.* Louisville: John P. Morton & Co.
George, Henry. *Our Land and Land Policy.* Doubleday & McClure Co. \$2.50.
Glyn, Elinor. *The Visits of Elizabeth.* John Lane.
Goodenough, G. *The Handy Man Afloat and Ashore.* Boston: Small, Maynard & Co. \$1.50.
Hayes, F. C. *A Handy Book of Horticulture.* London: John Murray; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$1.50.
Herbert, J. F. *Outlines of Educational Doctrine.* Translated by A. F. Lange; annotated by C. de Garro. Macmillan. \$1.25.
Huddleston, J. H. *Die Griechische Tragödie im Lichte der Vasenmalerei.* Freiburg: F. E. Fehsenfeld.
Jordan, W. L. *Astral Gravitation in Natural Phenomena.* Longmans, Green & Co.
Lee, Jennette. *A Pillar of Salt.* Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
Levasseur, E. *The American Workman.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. \$3.
Marshall, Nina L. *The Mushroom Book.* Doubleday, Page & Co. \$3.
Mason, E. G. *Chapters from Illinois History.* Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co. \$2.50.
Minor, R. C. *Conflict of Laws, or Private International Law.* Boston: Little, Brown & Co. \$3.
Morris, Lewis. *Harvest-Tide: A Book of Verses.* T. Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.25.
Overson, Gwendolen. *The Heritage of Unrest.* Macmillan. \$1.50.
Piñeyro, Enrique. *Vida y Escritos de Juan Clemente Zenea.* Paris: Garnier Hermanos.
Platt, C. D. *Poems.* A. Wessels Co.
Rosebery, Lord. *Questions of Empire.* T. Y. Crowell & Co. 35 cts.
Schuyler, J. D. *Reservoirs for Irrigation. Water-Power, and Domestic Water-Supply.* John Wiley & Sons. \$5.
Shaw, Bernard. *Three Plays for Puritans.* Chicago: Herbert S. Stone & Co. \$1.50.
Smith, L. W., and Thomas, J. E. *A Modern Composition and Rhetoric (Brief Course).* Boston: Benj. H. Sanborn & Co.
Taylor, H. O. *The Classical Heritage of the Middle Ages.* Macmillan. \$1.75.
Taylor, Jeremy. *The Rule and Exercises of Holy Living.* 2 vols. (Temple Classics.) London: J. M. Dent & Co.; New York: Macmillan. 50 cts. per vol.
Weathers, John. *A Practical Guide to Garden Plants, and Best Kinds of Fruits and Vegetables.* Longmans, Green & Co. 21s.
Weber, W. L. *Selections from the Southern Poets.* Macmillan. 25 cents.
White, Gilbert. *The National History and Antiquities of Selborne, and a Garden Kalendar.* 2 vols. London: S. T. Freeman; Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. \$20.
Young, Norwood. *The Story of Rome. (Medieval Towns.)* London: J. M. Dent & Co.; New York: Macmillan.

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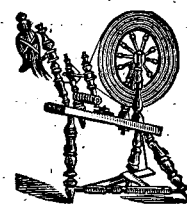
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